

## **Ohio SB 293 Opponent Testimony**

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The Ohio General Assembly has already reduced the time mail in ballots are accepted from 10 to 4 days post-election. These are ballots that are properly filled out, postmarked on time, and mailed by the legal deadline. If the USPS can't deliver in a timely manner, voters would be penalized for something completely outside their control. SB 293 especially harms Rural Ohio voters- slower mail routes and reduced postal service days mean longer delivery times, Ohio seniors and Ohioans with disabilities- voting by mail is often the only option for these voters and Ohio voters without reliable transportation, Ohioans living in poverty and students who often don't have their own vehicles would be disproportionately impacted. Ohio's current system works well. Ohio election law already requires mail-in ballots to be postmarked on the day before Election Day. The existing 4-day acceptance period doesn't extend the time Ohio voters can cast a ballot, it's simply a mail delivery window to ensure ballots from eligible voters are counted. Ohioans trust their mailed ballots will be counted. Of the more than 2.6M Ohioans who voted before Election Day last November, 803,253 (31%) voters placed their trust in the US Postal Service as their preferred method of ballot return. This bill does nothing but continues the effort to disenfranchise eligible voters in a partisan manner.