Like many others, I was excited to vote in the Primary Election in March. When it became clear that it would not be safe to vote in-person, I was relieved to know that my vote would still count through mail-in voting. I printed my application and sent it on its way. A week or so later, I did not receive the ballot that I was expecting, but in its place, a new application. Apparently, when I had filled out my original application, I did not sign it. It was a careless mistake--one that I am sure many others made as well. I filled out my new form, this time double checking each section to ensure that it had been filled out correctly. I mailed it--again--and waited. During this time, my father, who had a non-covid related illness, went into the hospital where he sadly spent his last days. I was distracted and heartbroken, and although I checked the mail each day for my ballot, I never tried to inquire about what had happened to my application or my ballot (nor should any person ever have to). The deadline for the primary election came and went, and I did not have a chance to vote. This MUST change. We can protect public health AND our voting rights with streamlined vote-by-mail options in November's election. Ohio voters should be able to request a ballot online, eliminating the chance of making mistakes. EVERY Ohioan's vote needs to count, which means that we need a more reliable system to ensure that every person who wants a ballot will get one. Ohio legislators must act NOW to pass needed reforms and protect our elections. We cannot predict what Covid will look like in November, but we can create a safer, more reliable voting process.

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