

March 6, 2023

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Chris Huntsman

TITLE: Kansas voter

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BILL NUMBER: SB 209, removal of three day voter protection/grace period

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair & members of the committee, and Rep. Patton,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 209 – Removal of the three-day voter protection/grace period

The 2023 Legislative Session appears to want to take away voting options.

For the past several years I have voted by advance mail ballot. I have returned it thru the mail, dropped it in a ballot box, but others also return it to a polling site on election day.

I believe the USPS mail service is not dependable as in the past. I say this with no disrespect, but our 30 year plus mail carrier retired and his service was excellent. Our new carrier hardly has a year of experience, plus is of a different generation, and is under a drastic change in postal leadership nationally, so the new “service” is just different. I also have received mail for me that has been severely damaged in the postal system, and it arrives with a “sorry” note from “your postmaster” and sometimes too late for whatever.

Removing the 3 day grace period could potentially lead to many votes not being counted when the intent of the voter had the ballot in the return mail in plenty of time. Now that the Senate has dropped the drop box option, it will get only worse. I understand that in Shawnee County in 2020, 217 ballots were received in the 3 day grace period and the number in 2022 was 291. With this bill, that could mean lots of votes not counted; taking away the voting rights from over 200 people each election just in the Topeka area.

Vote No on SB 209

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