

March 9, 2023
Testimony to the House Elections Committee

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BILL NUMBER: SB 209, requiring mail ballots by 7 pm Election Day
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 209.

I urge you to vote NO on bill SB 209. Removing the three day voter protection period for ballots postmarked by Election Day is voter suppression. This allows for college students and the elderly and homebound to have adequate time to be active participants in their constitutional right. And while it's great to say everyone can plan and send it ahead of time, that is simply not always possible. Circumstances arise all the time that can hinder timing. The rule was put into place in 2017 to offset mail delays from mail processing centers closing. Those centers are not open; there is still a need for the three day grace period. In a time when we should be encouraging everyone to participate in democracy and do their civic duty, instead this will disenfranchise voters.

Please vote no on SB 209.

Thank you,
Sara Askew
Wichita