

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

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

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

I am a 64-year-old white male who is disgusted at the very thought of the attempts to erode our democracy and move us toward system that discourages voting rather than encourages it. This is unamerican and is simple creating a solution for a problem that has been proven over and over *not to exist*.

As citizens we send our representatives to Topeka to solve real problems, not write bills that are a blatant attempt to seize and keep power and that erode our democracy not protect it.

We should be making it easier to vote and be heard not harder. This argument that we need to have elections decided on election day is a trojan horse and serves no purpose toward ensuring a strong and representative government. The bill simply makes it harder for those who, work long hours or multiple jobs to make ends meet, suffer disabilities, or have transportation issues. It absolutely targets underserved voters and solves nothing except to solidify power of election deniers and those who seek power over service.

My mother-in-law had to move to a nursing home due to health issues a few years ago. She was no longer able to vote in person so had to use a mail in ballot. This all occurred during the pandemic making it harder to see her, communicate with her, conduct business for her and interface with her. This also made it more difficult to allow her to submit her vote in elections even under the current guidelines. Passing this bill will surely make it harder for people like her to have their vote counted and that is the only goal that this legislation answers.

I am more discouraged about the state of our democracy than I have ever been. This type of bill is nothing more than a blatant attack on voting rights and our ability to maintain a representative government.

Why are our legislators wasting time creating solutions for problems that don't exist instead of concentrating on issues that affect our everyday lives? What a sad commentary on where our state and our country is heading.

I urge every legislator who really cherishes democracy, seeks office to serve others and who wants to solve real problems for real people to vote NO against SB 209.

Don C. Railsback OD

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