

**March 9, 2023**

**Testimony to the House Elections Committee**

**NAME:** Claire Reagan

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen, registered voter

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**BILL NUMBER:** SB 209, requiring mail ballots by 7 p.m. Election Day

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written Only Testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

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

We should be encouraging and supporting voter participation. Requiring the receipt of mail ballots by 7 p.m. on Election Day flies in the face of that encouragement and support.

Current mail delays are terrible. A family friend who lives here in Johnson County sent my kids Valentine's Day cards in advance of the holiday – she sends them cards in the mail for every holiday, and they are usually a day early. She said she dropped them in the mail on Friday, February 10th; we did not receive them until, I believe, Friday, February 17th. One full week for delivery of mail sent here within Johnson County. What about our college students and military service personnel who will be mailing their ballots from much farther distances?

It is important to note: The bill that added the current three-day grace period in 2017 passed unanimously in the Senate and with only one no vote in the House. What made sense back then when mail processing centers closed makes *even more* sense now as we are seeing an increase in mail delays.

Finally, in Shawnee County, 217 (2020) and 291 (2022) valid ballots were received within the three-day period. In 2022 in Johnson County, it was 575 ballots. Without current law, these Kansans' votes would have been thrown out. Many races come down to fewer than 200 votes, which is why every single valid ballot matters and deserves to be counted.

Please VOTE NO on SB 209.

Thank you,

Claire Reagan  
Olathe, KS