

January 21, 2025

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Jacqueline Lightcap

TITLE: Private Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: jacquielightcap@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: SB 4, requiring the return of advance ballots by Election Day

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only Testimony

Chair Thompson & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB 4. The three-day grace period is needed now more than ever. Since passing nearly unanimously in 2017, the three-day period serves a vital function in ensuring the votes of all Kansans count.

As the parent of a college student, I have heard directly from his friends who attend college out of state that they are concerned their ballots won't be received in time, despite the fact they requested the mail-in ballot early and mailed it back as quickly as possible. Because of mail delays, their votes are at risk of not counting. I know there is a high value placed on civic engagement of younger Kansans; this is one way we can let them know we value their vote.

On the opposite end of the age spectrum, Kansans who live in skilled nursing facilities rely on advance mail-in ballots to remain part of the voting process. Most do not drive and some need assistance even completing their ballot. The extra three days ensures they have time to cast their vote, just like they have much of their lives.

I urge your committee to vote No on SB 4, sending the message to Kansans of all ages that every vote matters.

Jacqueline Lightcap
Topeka