

**January 22, 2025**

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Sarah Ruth Mackay

**TITLE:** Private Citizen

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

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

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

Chair Thompson & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 4.

This bill will disenfranchise voters who live temporarily outside of the Kansas area. I am the mom of Grace, a current freshman in college. She attends school in Boston to study Neuroscience and has strong ideas about Kansas's local policies as she intends to live here after college. She also has strong ideas because her brother, my son, has seizures and Autism, and we are invested in education policies for Kansas students. As an 18-year-old, this was Grace's first year voting. She had a delay in getting her ballot and barely got her ballot mailed back in time to count.

We need the voices of all Kansans to be heard. We want the voices of the young being educated to be heard to inspire them to return to Kansas. This measure will either make it harder for people to do the work to vote from afar or will cause many more rejections of ballots over mail delays.

I ask you all to vote no on bill SB 4 to keep our younger generation engaged in the voting process and shape Kansas into a loom of weaving the voices of all Kansans.

Sarah Mackay

Private Citizen  
Leawood