

**January 22, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Kelly Brende

**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 testimony

Chair Thompson & members of the committee,

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

I urge you NOT to eliminating the 3-day period for mail ballots to be counted if they are postmarked on or before Election Day. Our mail system is unreliable, and it is vitally important to make sure every vote is counted.

Kansans attending college outside of the state would be drastically affected if the 3-day period is eliminated. Two of my children are college age and have friends who have had issues with their mail ballots.

One example is from the November 2024 election. Two out of state college students requested mail ballots through their county election office by mailing their applications via USPS. They eagerly awaited their mail ballots. They checked the county website after about a week as they had not yet received their mail ballots. The county website was not showing an application for mail ballots. After a few more days and no ballots, they called their county election office. Their application for mail ballots sent via USPS had NOT been received by the county election office. They had mailed their application over 2 weeks ago. They were instructed to fill out another application and send it via text to the election office.

It was the weekend before the election, and they had not yet received their ballots. They considered driving 6 hours to vote in person, but their school and work schedules did not allow them to do so. Finally, they received their mail ballots on Monday, 4, 2025 at 4 pm. They planned on using next-day Fed Ex to send the mail ballots back to the election office, but they had a tornado warning and had to wait for the all clear before proceeding to Fed Ex. They had to go to 3 Fed Ex locations to find one still open. Although they were able to send their ballots, because of the tornado warning, they did not get to Fed Ex in time for next-day mail and it would have cost them \$90 to send via next day. Their ballots (postmarked by election day) would not arrive by November 5, 2024 but did arrive within the 3-day period.

This is just one of many problems Kansans face with USPS and why the 3-day is needed.

SB 4 will disenfranchise Kansas voters, and I urge you to vote no on bill SB 4.

Kelly Brende  
Leawood, KS