

January 22, 2025

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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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-only testimony

Chair Thompson & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 4. As the parent of a recent college graduate, I support the CURRENT LAW that allows mail ballots to be counted if they are postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the Election Office within three days after the election.

When my son was in college from 2020-2024, I was active in parent groups for college students. There often were discussions in the groups about mail delays and other delays impacting voting. Changing the current law would discourage young people from voting – at a time when we want the opposite to happen.

Significant delays in USPS mail processing are common. I recently had a package delivered seven days AFTER the promised delivery date. And that was after it was delayed getting into the mail stream by one day because my local branch closed early for the day with no notice. I mailed a letter from Leawood to Des Moines – and it took 16 days to arrive.

The reasons the current law was put into place in 2017 are valid now, more than ever.

Please vote no on SB 4.

Martha Conradt
Leawood, Kansas