

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

Chair Thompson & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 4. I am especially disappointed that Senator Thomson would reintroduce this bill following the much publicized federal investigation of our Shawnee Mission postal service confirming numerous problems impacting timely and efficient mail delivery in his/my district.

The three day voter protection period exists to ensure mail delays do not impact a Kansas citizens right to vote. The current law was put into place in 2017 with a near unanimous vote after USPS processing centers in Kansas closed and we experienced mail delivery delays across the state. We still have no USPS processing centers in Kansas and mail delays have only gotten worse. This three day grace period is needed now more than ever, especially in my senate district 10, where more recent postal problems have been identified.

I urge you to vote no on SB 4 to continue to protect the right for Kansans to vote by mail with confidence their votes will be counted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Phoebe Rinkel

Shawnee, Ks