

**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.

SB 4 will unintentionally disenfranchise voters who rely on the U.S. Postal Service to deliver their ballots. More than 18 percent of Kansas voters use mail-in ballots, according to Secretary of State Scott Schwab. Among these who would be affected negatively by this legislation are especially those in rural areas and those who, by age or medical condition, are unable to reliably transport themselves to polling locations.

A 2024 USPS audit found that nearly 17 percent of all Kansas mail failed to arrive on time, defined as being delivered within two days of mailing. In terms of mail-in ballots, Secretary of State Scott Schwab has informed the U.S. Postal Service that Based on the results of the August 2024 primary, at least 1,000 voters would be negatively affected by this legislation with the number likely higher.

In a time when we should be more supportive of people making their voices heard, we should oppose SB 4; please vote no on bill SB 4.

Michael DeMent  
Leawood