

**January 22, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Laura Robeson

**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 Only

Chair Thompson & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 4. Our democracy works best with maximum participation, and removing the grace period for mail delays is a harmful and an unnecessary barrier for citizens to vote.

Over the last several years, we have all noted some prolonged delays in our mail system and punishing voters for elements out of their control is wrong.

I believe that people have confidence when their vote is counted and people understand mail delays. To say that all votes must be counted on Election Day for people to have faith in the system is incorrect. Like taxes which have to be postmarked by April 15th every year, so should we be consistent with advance ballot requirements.

Many groups of people, particularly older people and disabled people, use advance ballots by mail, and this unduly affects their right for their vote to be counted.

In closing, I ask that you vote no on SB 4 and protect Kansans vote.

Laura Robeson  
Prairie Village