

February 6, 2024

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Claire Reagan

TITLE: Kansas Citizen, registered voter

EMAIL ADDRESS: clairereagankc@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: SB 365

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only Testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 365.

We should be encouraging and supporting voter participation. Requiring the receipt of mail ballots by 7 p.m. on Election Day flies in the face of that encouragement and support.

Current mail delays are terrible. In particular, I'm thinking about our college students and military service personnel who vote by mail because they are far away. If we want representative democracy, we must continue to allow ballots to be received in a timely manner as currently permitted.

It is important to note: The bill that added the current three-day grace period in 2017 passed unanimously in the Senate and with only one no vote in the House. What made sense back then when mail processing centers closed makes *even more* sense now as we are seeing continued mail delays.

Finally, in Shawnee County, 217 (2020) and 291 (2022) valid ballots were received within the three-day period. In 2022 in Johnson County, it was 575 ballots. Without our current law, these Kansans' votes would have been thrown out. Many races come down to fewer than 200 votes, which is why every single valid ballot matters and deserves to be counted.

Please VOTE NO on SB 365.

Thank you,

Claire Reagan
Olathe, KS