

**Testimony for 2/22/21 public hearing in SUPPORT of  
bill HJ-58 for Expanded Access to Absentee Ballots and  
HJ-59 for Early Voting**

I am strongly in favor of both bills. Voting should be as easy and convenient as possible for every eligible voter. Democracy depends on participation, so anything that expands ease of access to that participation is to be encouraged.

HJ-58: Absentee ballots should be available to any registered voter who requests one. And every registered voter should get an application for requesting an absentee ballot automatically, without having to request it.

HJ-59: Early voting helps voters whose schedules make getting to the polls on election day a challenge. When more people vote early or by mail, the lines at the polls are shorter. At any time, this is a good thing, but during a pandemic reducing crowd size is vital.

Please do everything you can to enact both these measures, for the health of our democracy.

Thank you,  
Gretchen Brinckerhoff  
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