

HJ 58 Testimony

Dear Esteemed Government Administration and Elections Committee;

I support HJ 58 Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution of Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Absentee voting was a Godsend this past year. My husband and I were relieved that we did not have to stand in a long line near other people to cast a vote during the pandemic.

We are also glad we did not have to drive to the local polling place which is situated on a dangerous stretch of road; sight lines are limited and traffic moves fast.

But more than for ourselves, no-excuse absentee voting is good for many. Persons who are caring for sick or elderly parents, or young children, who cannot take time away. Persons who work more than one job, or jobs that require long hours or travel away from home. Persons who are sick themselves. Persons who have an emergency come up that requires them to be out of town.

Let's make our State stronger and make it easier for registered voters to cast their vote.

Forcing people to vote in person means hardship for many; they may need to take time off from work, pay for a caretaker, find transportation, etc. Limiting absentee voting is a form of voter suppression. Absentee voting last year was secure and safe, and led to record-breaking participation in the election. That is something to be proud of.

Let us keep it going and pass a proposal to amend the state constitution so voters can then approve it in the 2022 statewide election.

Thank you,

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