

House Bill - 1312

Thank you for the chance to address the members of the House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee. I am writing in opposition to HB 1312.

Under this bill, I would no longer be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. As a parent of small children, the absentee ballot has been important to casting my ballot and assure I have a chance to vote. I don't have to worry about heading to the polls and a child getting sick or looking for childcare.

My friends, who also have small children, have used the absentee ballot to fully research candidates without having to track down a sample ballot online. It reminds them that an election, especially a primary, is upcoming and to submit a ballot. These friends would also not be eligible to vote by absentee under the qualifications list.

Lastly, it sounds like a nightmare for the Secretary of State to track who would be eligible and who would not be eligible and it would use up time and resources in our government.

I urge the committee to give a Do Not Pass report for this bill or remove the eligibility list. The list of requirements makes it more challenging for me and others to submit a ballot.

Thank you for your time.

Whitney Oxendahl