Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee,

My name is Sargianna Wutzke and I am writing in support of SB 2163.

I think that everyone could benefit from putting our ballots in plain language so there is not confusion as to what a person votes for in an election. Prior to when I vote, I do comprehensive research on the measures on the ballot because the wording could easily confuse someone, and I fear voting incorrectly.

The National Institute on Standards and Technology did a study where participants had a traditional language ballot and a plain language ballot encompassing the same voting. 82% of participants in the study preferred the plain language ballot, 9% of participants preferred the traditional ballot and 9% of participants had no preference. In this same study, it was demonstrated that participants voted more accurately on the plain language ballot than the traditional language ballot.

This and several other studies show that framing a ballot question with information about what will change if the measure passes, what means if you vote yes/for or no/against the measure are needed because it will assist voters in voting the way they intended to cast their ballot.

I am the Lead Operations Officer for Community Options. We provide services to individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Many individuals that we serve truly have an interest in voting however struggle with understanding the measures on the ballot. Some of these individuals will reach out to their staff or family members for an explanation of the ballot measures however sometimes they may also have some confusion as to what is meant by a ballot measure. If there is plain language, there will be a positive change for all.

Voter accuracy should be the most important thing when someone casts their ballot and plain language ballots will significantly assist with this happening. Isn't that what we want in the voting process? Don't we want everyone's vote to count in the way they intended?

Sargianna Wutzke