

Dear House Political Subdivision Members,

My name is Rae Portra, I live in Trenton, ND, District 23. I am writing in opposition to HB1314.

I was born and raised in Montana, but moved to North Dakota in 1994, at the age of 17 and the day after graduating high school. Every election I've ever voted in has been in North Dakota.

I never paid too much attention to the way our elections were handled until the '16 election. I was told to make sure the number changed after feeding my ballot into the tabulator because they had been having issues with ballots not being counted. I kinda thought, "Well, at least they are aware of the problem and are watching and checking."

Fast forward to '20-'21 when we saw massive changes made to voting. Our community lost in-person voting altogether, and were given illegally implemented Drop Boxes as a replacement. Per Article 1, Section 4 of the US Constitution, "The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed, in each state, by the Legislative Branch." The Drop Boxes used in the 2020 election were enacted by Executive Order and should've been referred to the ethics committee since the Governor who signed the order was also a candidate on the ballot of the election in which he changed the rules. I started looking into the Century Code regarding elections and was stunned to see all the changes made after the fact.

I was disappointed when we still didn't have in-person voting for the Primary and asked why. I was told "It's just too darn difficult with these machines." from a woman at another table, "You've had weeks to use that drop box." I was a little taken aback by that response, everyone should be able to vote in-person on election day and if the machines are so difficult, why are we using them? In Nov, once again, I asked why Trenton didn't have in-person voting, and why, of the 3 Districts in Williams County, is District 23 the only District without in-person voting on election day? This time, I was told that we just didn't want one.

Currently North Dakota is ranked 40th for election integrity and HB1314 will only cause that number to drop further. Drop boxes lack transparency and shouldn't take the place of in-person voting. Several elderly members of our community were disenfranchised because they were unable to get to Williston to vote. My foot was crushed in a car accident several years ago and I have a couple rods and about a dozen screws holding my foot together. In November I waited in line for 2 hrs, an hour of that time outside in 10 degree temps. There was no railing to hold on to, no seats along the way for people with mobility issues to use. I barely made it and was in excruciating pain by the time I did, I don't know how the elderly and people worse off than I am were expected to stand that long.

Another issue I have with this bill is that it states "...the drop box must be secured and under the control of the local election official at all times." How is that even possible? Unless the election official camps out at every drop box location there will be times when those boxes will not be under their control. Also, accepting ballots after Election Day as long as they are postmarked

before election day. It's our individual responsibility to make sure our ballot arrives by Election Day and anything received after that date is null and void. The links below better describe the issues associated with the use of ballot drop boxes, lack of voter registration, and loose absentee laws and how they create an opportunity for fraud and other criminal activity. Thank you for your time and consideration, I urge you all to protect our elections and vote no on HB1314.

Sincerely,

Rae Portra

<https://node-3.2000mules.com/>

<https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity/commentary/the-fraud-dare-not-speak-its-name#>

<https://www.williamsnd.com/Elections/>

<https://www.heritage.org/electionscorecard/pages/states/nd.html>

<https://www.maciverinstitute.com/2022/07/supreme-court-drop-boxes-ballot-trafficking-illegal/>

<https://news.yahoo.com/fake-official-drop-boxes-set-142554017.html>