

February 27, 2023

Dear Chair Mohamud Noor and Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee:

Re: Democracy for the People Act (HF 3)

My name is Erica Fishman and I live in Minneapolis, and I urge you to support the Democracy for the People Act (HF3/SF3) this legislative session. As a retired public health professional, I know that voting matters for health and that a healthy inclusive democracy is necessary for the wellbeing and health of our communities. There is an opportunity during this session to improve the health of our state by ensuring our democracy is inclusive of all Minnesotans.

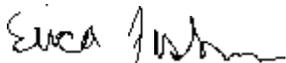
Research from the Health & Democracy Index found that communities with high voter participation enjoy greater social cohesion and better health. States that make elections more accessible through policies like automatic and same day registration, non-strict voter ID requirements, felon re-enfranchisement and mail voting options enjoy higher levels of voter participation and better public health outcomes.

When Minnesotans are healthier and more connected to our neighbors, our voices are stronger and our institutions more accountable. We know there are many barriers for people of color, American Indians and seniors to voting and expanding voter registration is an important step to eliminating these barriers.

Community health would be considerably improved by the passage of The Democracy for the People Act (HF3/SF3) and I strongly urge the Human Services Finance committee to pass this bill including the expansion of automatic voter registration as it will address historical voter registration disparities and advance health equity in our state.

Minnesota has long been a leader in democracy. This session, you have the chance to make sure we continue to lead by passing the Democracy for the People Act. The Act will protect and expand access to democracy and ensure the voices of all Minnesotans matter. The best way to protect democracy is by expanding it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica Fishman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Erica Fishman
4300 W. River Pkwy #112
Minneapolis, MN 55406.