

Chair Dehn, Ranking Member Nash, committee members,

I write in strong support of the draft bill authorizing automatic vote by mail for all registered voters during this pandemic (and any similar future widespread emergencies).

Unlike the recent debacles in such states as Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, Minnesota has time to prepare for our August primary and November general elections, but must act swiftly. In extraordinary times like this, all registered voters should be sent mail-in ballots without having to request them. The Secretary of State and local election officials need to receive sufficient funding to implement this as smoothly as possible.

This is only common sense and common decency. Viewing this through a partisan lens would be shameful. NOT passing this legislation promptly would be irresponsible. This bill is something ALL Minnesotans can proudly rally around.

I appreciate the efforts of legislators and staff to adapt and work through these challenging times.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Peltola

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