

April 16th, 2021

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

No matter our race, background, zip code, party, or how we pray, in order for our democracy to work, it must include all of us. Minnesotans across the state have committed to this - time and time again.

Minnesotans are voters. We are proud of our status as the highest voter turnout state in the nation and our honest, accurate, and secure elections. But we also know there's more we can do to bring our elections into the 21st century and ensure *all* Minnesotans can cast their ballots safely and equally.

That is why we applaud Chair Nelson and the State Government and Finance committee for putting together the House State Government Omnibus bill, House File 1952, as amended. The bill includes a number of provisions that begin to make the promise of democracy real for us all.

- Automatic voter registration would make voting more accessible for everyone. When Minnesotans get a driver's license, a hunting license, or register for a participating state program, they could be automatically registered by simply sharing their information with the Minnesota Secretary of State with the option to opt out.
- Over 50,000 Minnesotans who have served their time deserve a chance to reenter society and re-engage in the democratic process. This bill would restore voting rights as soon as a voter is released from incarceration.
- The bill would protect Minnesotans from efforts to interfere with, intimidate, or deceive voters by knowingly providing false information. Every Minnesota should be allowed to exercise their right to vote freely.
- Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of State to prepare voter instructions in languages other than English for in-person absentee voting. Specifically, instructions must be prepared in Spanish, Somali, and Hmong. This is an overdue improvement that will make voting simpler for thousands of Minnesotans.

Some politicians want to set us back, making it harder to vote by creating new, burdensome barriers to participation or by ending same day registration as we know it. Minnesotans expect better.

We can take on our shared challenges by making sure our government represents all of us. Black, brown, or white, Indigenous or immigrant, we are all a part of Minnesota's growing and vibrant democracy.

Signed,

100% Campaign

AFSCME Council 5

Chinova Bioworks

Clean Elections Minnesota

Education Minnesota

First United Church of Christ

ISAIAH

Junket: Tossed & Found

Land Stewardship Action Fund

Land Stewardship Project

Minnesota Association of Professional Employees

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

Minnesota Nurses Association

Muslim American Society of Minnesota

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness

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Sierra Club Northstar Chapter

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Unidos MN