

Mr. Gelbmann,

I am writing in advance of tomorrow's meeting of the House Government Finance Committee meeting to offer testimony in support of HF3499A5, which would amend HF3499, a bill "relating to elections; transferring and appropriating money for purposes of the 1.3 Help America Vote Act", to allow "conduct of the election primarily by mail according to section 204B.45, subdivision 1.5 2, provided that a schedule for reasonable public notice and ballot delivery may be directed 1.6 by the secretary based on the circumstances of the outbreak".

This amendment will save lives by limiting the potential for COVID-19 transmission during in-person voting. This amendment will also save money by allowing a rational, methodical process to expand voting by mail, avoiding the chaotic and dangerous conditions that we all witnessed in the recent election in Wisconsin. Voting by mail will prevent a new wave of COVID-19 infection caused by in-person voting, and the downstream economic effects of another Stay At Home order, closed businesses, lost jobs and decreased state revenues.

Thank you for including my testimony.

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