

Government Operations Committee – Feb. 5, 2019 – 9:45 am –

Chair Freiberg, members, my name is George Beck. I chair Minnesota Citizens for Clean Elections and I am a former chair of the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board.

I am testifying this morning in support of H.F. 45 that provides for automatic voter registration in our state.

Our current system of registration is onerous and stands as an unnecessary obstacle to access to the ballot. It should be easy to vote.

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia have adopted this policy which means that a third of Americans are automatically registered to vote. In Oregon, registration rates have quadrupled since AVR was adopted in 2016.

Additionally, this policy will keep voter rolls more accurate with continuous updates and fewer errors. It will save money on printing, mailing and data entry.

Registration is not compulsory – you can opt out.

This bill will improve democracy in Minnesota and help to combat voter suppression.

Please vote in favor. Thank you.