

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As youth who will be voting in the near future, we believe that Ranked Choice Voting is the best way to strengthen our democracy and elect leaders of the people. As freshmen in high school, we are not yet voters, but we look forward to having a say in our democracy in the future. When that time comes, we want to vote knowing that the leader we as a community elect, is a leader that a true majority of the community wants. Ranked Choice Voting is a good way to assure that this happens.

Young people want to participate in democracy but it is hard to participate in voting when you feel your vote doesn't matter. We believe that ranked choice voting offers voters more choice so the voters don't feel like they have to vote strategically based on who they think could win and instead, vote for their preferred candidate. And if that candidate doesn't win, their vote isn't thrown away, but instead counted for their second choice and used to help elect the winner.

Data has already come out that shows that ranked choice voting leads to higher participation in elections and with our generation having high rates of civic engagement, we believe that implementing ranked choice voting will result in high voter turnout rates and elected leaders that are truly elected by the people, for the people

Thank you for hearing our perspective on this bill. We urge the committee to support HF 2486.

Tess Machalek, Adin Lindell, Avery Lewis
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