100% 100% Campaign 705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100 Saint Paul, MN 55114 www.100percentmn.org

February 10, 2022

Chair Michael Nelson and Members of the State Government Finance and Elections Committee,

We are writing to voice our support for the voting rights bills the committee is hearing on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Minnesotans believe in democracy. We believe in it, because we are it.

Our school boards and city halls are run by hairdressers and teachers, nurses, soldiers, mothers, and small business owners. Every part-time state legislator is also a full-time Minnesotan. Those elected at every level of government, from our Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor to our U.S. Senator, are people we might bump into at the grocery store.

The idea that any of us, if we get the majority of votes, could be in office matters. That those in office are people like us, is what makes our democracy work. We expect Minnesota's governments to be fully representative, responsive to popular demand, and capable of acting both in a crisis and for the long-term. Meeting those expectations depends on Minnesotans' having the ability to freely exercise our votes. These bills protect that right for all of us.

- House File 607 would improve access to voting by automatically registering eligible Minnesotans whenever we provide the state with the required documentation, as we do when we apply for a driver's license or enroll in a health care program.
- House File 3024 standardizes early voting rules and would provide Minnesotans with the opportunity to become permanent absentee voters, to receive their ballots in the mail for their primary, general, and special elections.
- House File 3021 would make voting more accessible for newly eligible 18-year-olds to vote by allowing the pre-registration of 16 and 17-year-olds. Likewise, it provides college students with more ways to prove their residency if they are new to campus.
- House File 608 strengthens our longstanding prohibition on polling place electioneering, making sure every voter can vote in-person without interference.

Voting is a powerful thing. It's the act that makes political power legitimate. If enacted, these bills would strengthen our democracy and our state. We encourage members of this committee to support these bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chris Conry

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