

Chair Becker-Finn, members of the Committee, my name is David Fisher. I teach at the University of Minnesota Law School and am a former Minnesota Commissioner of Administration and member of the Metropolitan Council.

I'm Strategic Advisor to and represent Clean Elections MN, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization working for an inclusive and healthy democracy in Minnesota. In fact, just last fall we hosted a forum on Artificial Intelligence and Election Disinformation with the Brookings Institution.

We believe that faith in elections and acceptance of results are among the most essential ingredients of a functional democracy. Yet, even now Deep Fake AI is turning the 2024 U.S. presidential election into an unprecedented test on how to police deceptive content that deceives people.

An early salvo came last month in New Hampshire. Days before the state's presidential primary, an estimated 5,000 to 25,000 robocalls went out using a fake but convincing depiction of President Biden's voice to tell recipients not to bother voting. And NPR reports that while fake robocalls are not new, making a persuasive hoax has gotten [easier, faster and cheaper](#) thanks to generative AI tools that can create realistic images, video and audio [depicting things that never happened](#).

These are clear attempts to interfere with the independent, nonpartisan electoral process and is voter suppression, pure and simple.

The World Economic Forum issued a report this year in collaboration with Zurich Insurance Group. They surveyed over 1,400 global risk experts, policymakers and industry leaders in September 2023 about their biggest global concerns. AI-derived misinformation and disinformation — and its implications for societal polarization — ranked [ahead](#) of climate change, war and economic weakness in its top 10 risks over the next two years..

And this fraud is particularly pernicious in the immediate run-up to an election, when there's little time for journalists, campaigns or authorities to fact-check or debunk it. HF3625 addresses this issue head on.

At the same time cautious approaches to mitigate the consequences of fraud reflect the need to weigh these potential harms against free speech rights. There is no truth-in-advertising rule in political advertising. But we can have solutions tailored to the problems identified in HF3625.

We're trying to get this right.

With paralysis now in the Congress, states like Minnesota are left to put as many guardrails as we can to mitigate the threat. This year's provisions strengthen the Deep Fake Bill, and Clean Elections MN urges you to pass HF3625.

Thank you for your important bipartisan work on this issue and your commitment to further strengthen democracy.