Phillip Williams and Katherine Christopher

250 Laurel Road Mahtomedi, MN 55115 Telephone (651) 653-1553

April 15, 2020

Minnesota House of Representatives State Government Finance Division Subject: HF 3499

Attn: Jim Gelbmann, Committee Administrator

Dear Committee Members:

The August and November elections in Minnesota will be different from any we have experienced due to COVID-19. The proper administration and security of these elections should be a priority for the Minnesota Legislature because our election system will be stressed like never before. The federal dollars provided by HF 3499 will go a long way in making sure that our election system works as well in the upcoming elections as it does in normal times and in keeping Minnesota citizens safe.

There is no question that the COVID-19 virus will still be around for the August and November elections. If proper procedures are not put in place, one or both of these elections could cause a dramatic increase in new cases and new deaths which would be very costly for Minnesota, not to mention, terrible. Minnesota needs the money from HF 3499 to put these procedures in place and we need to be very, very careful in protecting Minnesota citizens during the 2020 elections.

Please give HF 3499 serious consideration and be someone who stands up for protecting Minnesotans in this difficult time.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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Sincerely,

Phillip Williams

Cc: Rep. Peter Fischer, Sen. Chuck Wiger