

**Written Testimony HF9**  
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Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Ariyouna Broom. I'm a young mother of a 2-year-old boy, a Personal Care Assistant for my grandmother, and a first-time voter. I never saw voting as something that was particularly important in part, because no one ever told me it was important. But 2020 was different.

Equality was on the ballot. Issues like police brutality and education that directly impact our daily lives are at stake. We need to fix our democracy to make it more responsive to the people and appropriately address these issues we care about.

I spent time getting community members to pledge to vote and called folks to make sure they had all the information they needed to be able to vote. I had conversations with a lot of people who lost faith in our system. I encouraged them that we all need to come together to make change. We saw the voter turnout numbers in our communities skyrocket. I think grassroots organizing is an effective way to do this work and we need to make community power building more accessible.

But we need to come together in a democracy that works for us and puts people back at the center; one that prioritizes equity and restores power to people. Being a mom has changed my perspective and politics has helped teach me more about the world I'm raising my son into. I have a lot of faith in the system and our elected leaders' commitment to pass this bill to change the world my son is going to grow up in for the better.

Thank you.