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SENATE CHAMBER
OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS ETHICS. ELECTIONS &

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

JOINT COMMITTEES

MEMBER: RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR STATE AGENCIES

CORRECTIONS AND REVENUE

CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

February 19, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2092

The House on Ethics, Elections and Local Government:

Chair: Rep. William Sutton

Vice-Chair: Rep. Blake Carpenter

Ranking Minority Leader: Rep. Brett Parker

Rep. Francis Awerkamp, Rep. Lonnie Collins, Rep. Willie Dove, Rep. Tim Hodge, Rep. J.C.

Moore, Rep. Jarrod Ousley, Rep. Bill Rhiley, Rep. Paul Waggoner, Rep. Brandon Whipple

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2092:

This bill would allow voters to register on Election Day and will improve citizen participation in democracy as it already has in nine states that allow this system. A 2009 study found the top five voter turnout states in the 2008 presidential election were Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Maine and Massachusetts' neighbor, New Hampshire. All have Election Day registration.

The bill would ease rules for absentee voting, build in a system using e-mail for some voting administration and allow teenagers to pre-register before they reach voting age.

The bill's centerpiece would allow for voters to register on Election Day.

Same-day registration would allow citizens to register by simply presenting a valid government-issued photo identification card and proof of residence at their polling place. Proponents say it would prevent the disenfranchisement of citizens.

Voter participation helps transform voting from a privilege to a civil right that it's meant to be.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support HB2092

Sincerely,

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau