



Dear Chair Nelson, Chair Kiffmeyer and Members of the State Government Elections, Pensions and Transportation Conference Committee:

We are writing to **show support for some provisions** of the **State Government Policy, Finance, and Elections Omnibus Bill (HF4293)** and **opposition to others**. **The provisions we support protect election integrity, increase transparency and maintain or increase access to in-person or absentee voting, and protect election workers. The sections we oppose create barriers by restricting access to voting.**

We support the following House and Senate provisions:

- Prohibiting contributions by a lobbyist or a political committee in exchange for special access to lawmakers that is not available to the general public.
- Requiring sample ballots or absentee ballot applications sent by private organizations to have labeling that makes it clear they are not official ballots.

We support the following provisions in the House:

- Requiring the State Canvassing Board to declare the candidates duly elected who received the highest number of votes for each state and federal official to ensure the popular vote is not overturned.
- Requiring disclosure of the top 3 contributors in independent expenditure disclaimers.
- Prohibiting intimidation of election workers and obstructing access to a location where election duties are performed.

We oppose the following Senate provisions:

- Requiring voters to return absentee ballots in person.
- Requiring continuous live streaming of ballot boxes and ballot processing and ballot observers would be challenging to administer, putting an undue burden and costs to state, county and municipal election administrators.
- Requiring drop boxes to be within 100 feet of a door of the building where the county auditor or municipal clerk's office is located would restrict the number of ballot boxes available in municipalities and restrict voter access.
- Prohibiting local, state, and county election officials from setting vaccine requirements for election judges and members of a ballot board during a pandemic would put public health at risk and discourage potential judges from serving and in-person voting.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

Mary Hartnett
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