

**AVR Expert Testimony
Minnesota State Senate
May 2021**

My name is Sam Oliker-Friedland and I am Chief Counsel for the Center for Secure and Modern Elections. I am submitting this written testimony to the members of the Minnesota State Senate in consideration of HF 1952, a bill that will make Minnesota's elections more efficient, more accessible and more secure for all eligible voters in the state.

One of the strongest provisions in HF 1952 is automatic voter registration (AVR). AVR provides a significant upgrade to the state voter registration system, and is a critical policy to modernize Minnesota's elections.

AVR, as proposed in HF 1952, will automatically register people to vote when they confirm their citizenship and eligibility at the DVS or another state agency. People who are already registered to vote will have their information updated to reflect any address or name changes that might have occurred since their last transaction. New or updated registrants will then be mailed a postcard offering the opportunity to decline their new registration or registration change.

Minnesota has a proud tradition of civic engagement, which AVR can bolster. This system is proven to register the most voters, ensuring that no voter can be declined an opportunity to vote because they are not registered or their registration is out of date. For state election administrators, AVR as proposed in HF 1952 provides enhanced security, improved inter-agency communication and significant cost-savings.

AVR has a strong record of success in Colorado, a state with similar traditions of civic engagement, 1-2 large metropolitan areas and a significant number of rural voters—much like Minnesota. In Colorado, the adoption of AVR saw a [283% increase](#) in monthly voter registration transactions in 2020 when compared to the state's monthly average in 2015 & 2016. Paired with significant cost savings that could drive costs from [\\$0.83 all the way down to \\$0.03](#) per registration, as well as improved security by preventing human error and erroneous registration by ineligible voters, AVR is a proven success.

Passing and implementing AVR is one of the strongest steps Minnesota can take to immediately improve its voter registration and election systems, making it a critical component of HF 1952. As an expert in voting and election systems, I strongly encourage the members of the Senate to support and pass HF 1952.