

Testimony of: Jasper Hendricks III, to the Elections Committee of the Minnesota State Senate, on S.F. 1362, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact within the Omnibus Elections Policy Bill.

My name is Jasper Hendricks, and I am writing today on behalf of Democrats for the Electoral College. In 2016 I was an extremely proud Presidential Elector in Virginia for former FLOTUS/SEN/SEC Hilary Clinton, and I recognize the concerns many of my fellow Democrats have about our presidential election process. However, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is not a solution to these problems. If anything it will make current problems more difficult, and create new problems.

As proponents have stated, the compact doesn't actually get rid of the Electoral College. Instead it tries to graft a makeshift scheme on top of the Electoral College. It is an attempt to circumvent the constitutional amendment process, therefore, creating a real threat to democracy along with even more instability and distrust in politics. In addition, it doesn't require that candidates win a majority of "popular votes" to win the presidency.

In order to support this effort, you must ask yourself, what national popular vote? The compact as it is currently written fails to define a single person or institution responsible for certifying the number that would be used as the winning total. This ambiguity could result in different states within the compact having different answers for the "national popular vote" and even different winners.

Under our current election process, there is no national popular vote, instead, we use state popular votes which allows the different states to count votes in various ways and this compact doesn't change that. Instead, the compact puts all the power in the hands of a few state election officials, relies on their judgment on how and which votes to calculate together to produce a national vote count, and assumes there are no questions or disputes over any states' results.

Political parties should focus on winning over voters in states like Minnesota, more than on changing the rules for a perceived short-term advantage. As an American I believe our nation is stronger when there is confidence in election outcomes. As a Democrat, I believe our party is stronger when we have support from a diverse coalition across the entire nation.

I urge you to not just blindly pass this along, there are real solutions to problems in our electoral process and National Popular Vote is not the way forward.