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Minnesota Senate Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for [Senate File 3 \(Boldon\)](#) - Voter registration provisions modification:

STRENGTHEN THE FREEDOM TO VOTE

“A bill for an act relating to elections; modifying provisions related to voter registration; absentee voting; requiring voting instructions and sample ballots to be multilingual and interpreters to be provided in certain situations; regulating intimidation, deceptive practices, and interference with voter registration and voting; campaign finance; expanding the definition of express advocacy; providing penalties; requiring reports; appropriating money ...”

Dear Honorable Chair John Marty, Vice Chair Nick Frenz & all other Committee Members:

I heartily welcome and urge your passage of much-needed Senate File 3 (SF3) to “Strengthen the Freedom to Vote” by Honorable Senators Liz Bolden, Lindsey Port, Erin Murphy and Aric Putnam in companion with [House File 3](#) by Honorable Representative Emma Greenman, Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman, Majority Leader Jamie Long and 32 other authors.

I have also read the Fiscal Notes and urge all to understand that the investment in this bill with priceless beneficial results is well worth the necessary costs to implement it.

Younger voters, voters across many ethnicities, and voters who are suffering from the harm and results of voter intimidation and interference need to be much more strongly welcomed and protected in Minnesota and across the U.S. as participants in our all-important democracy. That way more of our U.S. citizens can better prioritize and more easily vote for the elected representatives and officials who will have more of EVERYONE’S best interests in mind while more voters inspire others to vote through the “jump on the bandwagon” effect.

Like so many, I also agree that “When we all do better, we all do better.” as the beloved Senator Paul Wellstone was known for sharing. A democracy will function best for everyone when more of its people of voting age have a say in whom their government representatives will be and the laws and policies that those representatives will work to pass on our behalf. That is especially necessary for those who have the longest time on Earth left to benefit from such legislation vs. unhelpful or harmful legislation passed by those who do not consider the longer impacts to generations beyond them.

I also am so eager to see passage of SF2 as someone who provided strong public support for Honorable U.S. Representative John Sarbanes’ crucial [Freedom to Vote Act in 2019 and the For The People Act in Congress in 2021](#) (both numbered HR1 and SR1) which passed the House twice, but has not yet been able to pass the Senate due to those who did not want to better protect and usher in a truer democracy ruled by all of its people which is what a democracy is supposed to be.

I and so many others who were so aware of the importance of those bills and related bills that we also travelled and participated in the [August 28 Voting Rights March in Washington D.C.](#) and other U.S. cities ([CBS news story](#)) which was a glorious day of action to protect our democracy with and for each other. That event was preceded by a [rally at the Supreme Court](#) that I also attended that week for our U.S. Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). (I appreciate all the important legislation Minnesota is moving forward this session including for the U.S. ERA and a Minnesota ERA for much needed constitutional equal rights which are part of our human rights.)

I also ask that all of you look at the important voter protections that we in the DFL Party want enacted which are included in the "**Civil, Human, Natural, & Constitutional Rights**" section of our [DFL Action Agenda](#). It was passed in 2022 when I and many others submitted many resolutions for it as I have done in other years as well as a steadfast party member.

Voter protections and support are needed actions that all people should want and support including Minnesota's legislators this crucially-important session.

Thank you again to all of you who help pass Senate File 3, Minnesota's "Strengthen the Freedom to Vote" that will also inspire the entire nation and Congress as well.

Sincerely,

Janette Dean

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