



Chair Dziedzic, Ranking Member Anderson, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for SF3616.

Students United is the statewide student association representing all current, future, and former students attending Minnesota State's seven universities.

With many excited and engaged voters on our campuses, Students United is committed to strengthening and improving Minnesota's election laws for future generations. This is why we encouraged lawmakers to enact automatic voter registration, the pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-olds, and expanded access to the ballot by allowing all voters to choose to vote by mail last session. We were proud to see these provisions become law last year, but we know there is more work to be done.

In fact, before the transformative changes made during last year's session, Minnesota had not kept pace with innovative policies that allow for greater access to the ballot box, with the Cost of Voting Index ranking Minnesota 24th in the country in the relative ease of voting. This is why we're excited to support SF3616.

Across our campuses, students are eager to participate in our democracy, but we know students often face particular challenges in accessing the ballot. For example, young adults are less likely to have their own mode of transportation, making it difficult to get to early voting locations off campus. Students also tell us that their inability to get off campus throughout the day because of work or class schedules is a significant obstacle to voting. Fortunately, SF3616 would address these barriers, and we ask for members' support.