

I would like to offer written testimony opposing H7071 which would shorten the early voting period from 20 to 14 days. In my opinion, this change does nothing which will lead to even greater participation in our elections. It removes 6 days from this availability which is not offset by any gain to the public good, and puts a heavier burden on voters to work around work and travel requirements.

I believe one of the intentions of this bill is to lessen the impact when a candidate drops out of the race by forcing ballots to be completed closer to the election day itself; however, what if a candidate drops out on day 14 itself? As long as ballots are cast early there is the potential for the names on the ballot to have changed. The only mitigation of this problem is to enact an approach like Ranked Choice Voting where voters could list their choices in order of preference so if their primary choice were to drop out of the race their vote could seamlessly transfer to their next choice which remains on the ballot. Short of providing a true long term solution such as ranked choice voting, removing days within the early voting window is harmful to the electorate rather than supportive.

Respectfully,
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