

Hon. Tony Coelho
6 Trellis Path | Doylestown, PA 18901

March 11, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to inform you of my support Election Law – Curbside Voting – Establishment (HB 1404).

As a principal author of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the U.S. Congress, my goal was always to increase the civic participation and inclusion of Americans with disabilities. Nothing is more important to civic participation than the act of voting and breaking barriers to ballot access is an essential construct of our democracy.

House Bill 1404 will achieve this measure and increases ballot access for voters who are disabled or temporarily disabled. Many people with disabilities struggle to wait in long lines or physically navigate the polling place. An outdoor or drive-up option will give them the ease of voting experienced by other non-disabled voters while also maintaining privacy and independence – key elements to the integrity of the American voting process.

A report from the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations on disabled voter turnout in 2020 election demonstrated that reports disability-related access barriers reduced from 30% in 2016 to 18% in 2020. I firmly believe the data shows that this reduction is due to additional and more flexible voting options in this last election.

Additionally, the pandemic has taught us that in an unexpected crisis all kinds of Americans can find themselves subject to disability and in need of accommodations. The accommodation process provided in the ADA benefits more of us than we realize, especially in times of need.

By providing a curbside voting you will be opening the gates of freedom and equity to more voters while providing options that break barriers to ballot for many types of voters who are disabled, seniors, temporarily disabled and non-disabled in crisis.

I urge you to support and vote for House Bill 1404. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tony Coelho', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Tony Coelho

Former Member of Congress

Principal Author of the Americans with Disabilities Act