

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Favorable

Amy Waychoff

Montgomery County, LD 18

Dear members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Amy Waychoff and I have lived in Montgomery County for over 35 years. I am writing to show my strong support for SB 567, Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity. Voting is a sacred duty for citizens of the United States. To do so, they should be proud to present a valid government-issued photo identification. It is insulting to minorities to assume they might not have access to a photo ID, since most everyone carries a driver's license or MVA-issued photo identification card in their wallet. They use them to prove they are old enough to buy cigarettes or alcohol. They carry them when they are driving a car or flying in an airplane. How hard is it to bring their ID to the voting site on election day?

Ensuring that the person who appears at the polling place is, in fact, the voter whose name is on the registration record is also a sacred duty. Having the election official see the photo ID not only aids in preventing fraudulent voting, it also avoids mistakes that can take place when a person states their name.

Most importantly, this process prevents the possibility of a person in the country illegally from voting. When non-citizens vote, it negates the vote of a citizen. This is unacceptable.

The bill also provides several reasonable accommodations for a voter who does not possess a government-issued photo ID, including use of a non-government-issued photo ID along with a utility bill or other document that states the voter's name and address. The bill also provides that if the person does not have a photo-identification, they can vote a provisional ballot.

All polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans support Voter ID.

I therefore respectfully request a favorable report on SB 567.