

Subject: Favorable SB0901 Telephone Voting System

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To: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

I am here to ask for your support for SB0901. This is a bill that will establish a telephone system for disabled voters to return their absentee ballot. I believe that as a blind voter I should have the same options to vote as all other voters. I also deserve the same right to a secret ballot and to be able to vote independently just as other voters do.

I am an accessibility consultant for museums. I must travel to conferences and to different museums as part of my consulting business. That means that I am often on the road at election time. My job is very important to me, and I should not have to sacrifice my job in order to vote in person. It is important for me to be able to use an absentee ballot effectively and with all the benefits that any other voter has. Currently, I need assistance in printing the ballot to be sure it prints correctly and to be sure I am signing it in the correct place. That does not allow me the same opportunity to cast a secret ballot like other voters.

This legislation will provide me with the same opportunities to pursue my career and still be able to exercise my rights to participate fully and equally in the democratic process.

Please vote in favor of SB0901. Give us this opportunity to vote secretly and without any sighted assistance.