

I want to share with you my experience. My husband and I have been staunch voters. He usually goes to early in person voting and I like to go in person and vote on actual election day. This year however my husband was diagnosed with colon cancer and had surgery scheduled for election day. He wanted to make sure his vote was counted and went to the Delaware site the week before and cast his vote. I on the other hand due to physical issues was unable to do so and was very happy to be able to go online to get the forms to request an absentee ballot. My husband died the day of that surgery by the way. Again, he wanted to make sure his vote was counted. So did I. But I would not have been able to do so had I not been able to request a ballot online.

There is no reason to pass any law that would make it harder for a person to vote. Online services are the future despite the government falling behind and not keeping up with technology. Every voice should be heard and technology is the communication of the future. The election system is no exception and should utilize those tools.

I had to use this online system because of physical limitations and the illness of a love one. My vote deserved to be counted just as much as my husband's vote. It is your job to make it as easy for me to vote as humanly possible. I request House Bill 680 be withdrawn and your legislative attentions turned to efforts to make sure NO ONE IS EXCLUDED FROM VOTING. I have seen the very very long lines and hours devoted citizens have spent in order to vote in past elections. BUT IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE THAT WAY! I could never do that. Thankfully I live in a mostly white suburban area of the state with so many polling places you can walk right in and out when voting. (OH BUT THAT IS A TOPIC OF VOTER SUPPRESSION FOR ANOTHER TIME)

You can come up with reasons to prohibit advances like this but I feel they are excuses. As my public servant and the servant of every other person who has ever been prevented from casting a valid vote I urge you to FIND A WAY FOR EVERY OHIOAN TO EASILY CAST A VOTE, whether in person, on paper or via electronic.

EVERY VOTE SHOULD BE VALIDATED, VALUED AND ACKNOWLEDGED.

Respectfully,

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