

Good morning, Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and the members of the Government Oversight Committee. Representative Hoops and I thank you again for allowing us to bring House Bill 257 before you today.

Thank you, Representative Hoops, for your comments. I believe you have covered the salient points of the proposed legislation, so I just wanted to add my personal experience to my twenty plus years of many monthly board meetings at various organizations. The two significant issues for volunteer board member participation are drive-time to the physical meeting location, and the ability to attend a meeting while engaged in other activities at different locations. This legislation more than adequately addresses both of those issues. The goal for any board is to have as much input from the members as possible and I think it's indisputable that this type of technology, and the ability to attend virtually which this legislation will provide, serves to aid board members in performing their duties.

I want to echo the importance of the super-minority provision in this bill, because we want to take careful steps at the beginning of this implementation to ensure that important votes are done with the human feel of in-person contact when dealing with difficult issues. And of course anyone can obviously choose to attend any meeting in person at the institution if they desire to do that.

We have spoken about this concept to a large number of organizations and groups who would be affected by this legislation and have received overwhelming support. With this in mind, we look forward to your support of this legislation, and we're pleased to take any questions you may have.