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Mary Pollock, *Legislative Representative*



1200 Prescott Drive
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
517-351-7292
michigansera@comcast.net
www.mi-sera.org

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Honorable Ann Bollin, Chair
House Committee on Elections and Ethics
Michigan State House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Greetings Members of the House Committee on Elections and Ethics:

Michigan State Employee Retirees Association, a non-profit organization devoted exclusively to issues and concerns of all current and future retirees of the State of Michigan, supports secure and accurate elections. However, Michigan SERA opposes, in general, measures that make voting more difficult and less convenient for all voters, but especially measures affecting seniors.

From the many audits of the November 2020 election, it was one of the most secure and accurate ever held in Michigan. Innovations to both carry out the 2018 reforms approved by voters and accommodate restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic led to record turnout. Even with this effort, 30 percent of Michigan voters failed to cast a ballot in November 2020, a problem to which state legislators should direct their attention. All the legal challenges failed to surface voting irregularities or misconduct. The Michigan Senate Oversight Committee Report found no evidence of widespread voter fraud in the November 2020 elections. Legislation which is based on the premise that the November 2020 election was fraud-filled and inaccurate, like SB 303 and SB 304 are misplaced and ill-advised. To that end, **Michigan SERA opposes SB 303 and SB 304 on the Committee's agenda June 23, 2021.**

SB 303 and SB 304 abolishes the current voter identification option for in-person voters of signing a certificate of identity under penalty of perjury if the voter cannot present a government-issued picture identification at the polling place. This option has worked for decades in Michigan and there is no evidence supporting the need to eliminate it. These bills, if enacted into law, would result in many in-person voters without the narrowly prescribed identity documents having to submit a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot would not be counted unless the voter made a separate post-election trip to the election clerk to present additional voter identification within 6 days. At the last election, only 15 percent of provisional ballot voters had the time or capability of completing the post-election follow-up, thus disenfranchising them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bob Kopasz
Michigan SERA Coordinating Council Chair
bobkopszserachair@sbcglobal.net
810-240-8380

Mary Pollock
Legislative Representative
michigansera@comcast.net
517-351-7292