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Monday, May 8, 2023

Dear Representative Smit and Members of the House Elections Committee-

I strongly encourage you to either not take up or to vote against House Bill 4210 for several reasons.

The general public is currently extremely concerned about election security and voter fraud. If they become of the belief that voters can electronically submit their ballots, that will create more confusion and suspicion among those who are regularly concerned about election security.

While we can all agree that those soldiers, sailors, marines and airwomen & airmen who are deployed and well beyond the reaches of traditional mail systems definitely deserve the advantage of electronic submission, local clerks and those worried about election security can breathe a great sigh of relief knowing that military members who submit their ballots in this manner have the Common Access Card (CAC) which guarantees the identification of the service member.

Military family members who are not deployed or in combat zones have access to traditional postal systems that will deliver their ballots on time back to their local clerks. And with the provisions in Proposal 2 of 2022, if that ballot arrives up to six days after the election but is postmarked on the day of the election, the local clerk will deliver the ballot to the Canvass of the Election and that individual's vote will count. These ballot rarely do arrive late. In talking to my local clerks, they indicated that the MOVE (Military and Overseas) Ballots very rarely arrive after election day.

Please do not make changes to the current law relative to electronic ballots. Already, when the average American voter learns of the many loose advantages afforded to overseas voters (at least one of whom in 2020 was not born in the U.S., has not lived in the U.S. and had never visited the home in Allegan County from which she was voting), they see a system ripe for abuse. Let's give them less reason to believe in such abuse.

Sincerely,

Bob Genetski – Allegan County Clerk – Register