

## Amy Rostkowycz

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**From:** Karen Obits <karenobits160@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 2, 2021 5:31 PM  
**To:** Amy Rostkowycz  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB 302, HB 5288 and HB 5268

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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I'm writing to submit a card in opposition to the following bills SB 302, HB 5288 and HB 5268

I have a clear sense of my own position on the issue as stated in this email and am speaking only for myself.

It is my understanding from reviewing House Bill 5268 that it would "amend the Michigan Election Law to prohibit county, city, and township clerks from sending an absent voter (AV) ballot application to an elector unless the elector has applied for an AV ballot in person or by mail from that clerk or has requested to be placed on the city's or township's permanent AV application list. The secretary of state would be prohibited from sending an AV ballot application to an elector."

I oppose this amendment because it places unnecessary burdens on the voter to pursue his/her constitutional right to vote by absentee ballot and is a solution in search of a problem. The unsolicited sending of an absentee ballot application by an election administration official to a registered voter helps promote the greatest possible participation of the voter in our elections and there was no evidence of consequential fraud in the 2020 election when the Secretary of State sent registered voters absentee ballot applications. What this measure DID help accomplish, was something to be celebrated: More Michiganders voted.

It is my understanding from reviewing House Bill 5288 that it would "amend the Michigan Election Law to require applicants for absent voter (AV) ballots to physically sign the application and not be allowed to use a digital or electronic signature to sign an application. Additionally, the secretary of state, a county, city, or township clerk, an organization, and any individual employed by, contracted by, or associated with an organization would be prohibited from providing an online AV ballot application that does not require the applicant to physically sign the application.

I oppose this amendment because it places unnecessary burdens on the voter to pursue his/her constitutional right to vote by absentee ballot and is, once again, a solution in search of a problem. The use of electronic signature is a safe and secure means for citizens to both transact business both within the private sector and secure services from government agencies and is for many voters the far more accessible means by which to be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote by absentee ballot.

SB 302 Requires voters to attest they are not registered or legally residing out of state, even though both could be true and they would still have the right to register in Michigan, which would result in their older registration getting cancelled.

Since current law also already prohibits double voting, in this case as well I oppose this amendment because it is clearly a solution in search of a problem. I believe it also introduces unnecessary confusion for a voter attempting to pursue his/her constitutional right to vote by absentee ballot.

Sincerely,  
Karen Obits  
Spring Lake MI