

House Bill 1112 Ballot Petition Modernization Act

March 7, 2023

Support

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Bonnie Kingsley Smith. I am a resident of District 43B. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1112, the Ballot Petition Modernization Act.

Ballot petitions and petitions in general are a hallmark of a functioning democracy. The need for citizens to “petition” the government for change is embedded in the Constitution. The gathering of signatures affixed to a document that is presented to the governing body for “redress of grievances” is the people’s will on display.

Traditionally signatures are gathered at public events and canvassing. Each signature is later certified for accuracy. This certification process often disqualifies the signatory based on simple misspellings or incomplete information. The outcome is that a great many signatures are voided and ability to correct mistakes is almost impossible.

This legislation allows the use of modern computing systems to check in real time citizen information. This allows mistakes to be corrected during intercept and greatly reduces voided signatories. Passing of this legislation will allow the people’s will to be heard louder than ever!

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1112.