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Promoting Access To Voting

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Submitter Information

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General Comment

Promoting Access to Voting; Kelly Baldwin; resident of Franklin, Indiana living with degenerative disc disease, osteoarthritis of the spine, nerve damage. I am a wife, mother, grandmother, and work full time, receiving no disability benefits at this time in spite of the pain, fatigue, and medical care I receive. Indiana's policies limiting mail voting makes it far more difficult for me to vote. I am able to stand and walk, but sometimes with great pain after a short amount of time. I try to time it for the least wait, but as my disability is not visible and can be unpredictable, I often do not meet the criteria in the state for voting by mail, this makes voting in person far more difficult. I must consider the building, the time standing and walking, and consider if I am able to do this and willing to deal with the lingering after effects. Opening voting access via methods like voting by mail only makes sense. Every American should have the ability to have their voice heard at all levels of government. This is a cornerstone of American government. Ignoring available technology and limiting voting access does not honor the people's need and desire for representation. From the outside it looks like nothing more than a political game to keep the "other guy" from winning. Increased utilization of remote or mail voting is safe, has long proven it's accuracy, and opens our democracy to the people who are often overlooked, ignored, and thus not represented. Offering these options is good stewardship of the freedoms and responsibilities of our nation. Thank you for your time and consideration.