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Thank you to the members of the committee for allowing me to submit this testimony as I'm unable to be there in person.

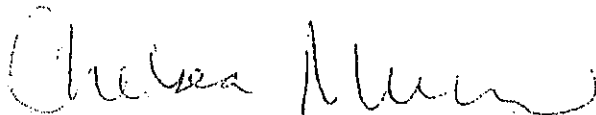
Last summer I moved to Lafayette after having lived in Denver for several years. I didn't want to miss my chance to vote in the 2018 election, so one of the first tasks I completed after the move was updating my voter registration. I knew the election was approaching and I began hearing my peers discuss their own plans while I waited excitedly for my ballot to arrive. After several days of checking the mail with no luck, I looked online and found that the ballot had been sent but never arrived.

I realized that I would have to make a trip to a Voter Service and Polling Center to pick up a replacement ballot in person. Ideally, I could have completed this errand on a weekend, but other Saturday appointments limited when I could make the trip and I was unable to find time during the narrow hours that VSPCs located near me in Lafayette were open. Instead, I scrambled to schedule time during the workday to leave the office and pick up my ballot.

We all have busy lives, and it is a lot to ask of Colorado residents to leave work to exercise their right to vote. For me, this presented a real obstacle that I'm sure others in similar situations aren't able to overcome. Expansion of VSPC hours on Saturday or outside of traditional working hours would have been a huge help, as I could have fit this errand into my schedule rather than arranging my day around it.

I'm asking for the support of the members of the committee to pass HB19-1278, the Colorado Votes Act, to reduce the friction required for Colorado residents to vote.

Thank you again for your time,



Chelsea Meenan