

4.25.19

Attachment F

My name is Lindsay Singh and I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak with you all today in regards to House Bill 19-1278.

I am one of the rare few individuals who has been lucky enough to experience elections across this nation as well as internationally. I have **seen** real corruption of elections, the struggle of voters to **safely, confidently and privately** vote. I have seen the pride that voters take in being able to voice their opinion and choice, even if it means **risking their lives to do so**. These scenarios simply **don't exist** in Colorado. In contrast, our state is a mail ballot state. This means that **every eligible, registered Colorado resident** who receives mail will receive a ballot. It does not matter if you are young, old, rich, poor, overseas or in the military, at college or not, white, brown, black or red - if you get mail you'll get a ballot. Ballots are mailed 22 days before the election day. **22 days. What a concept!** You simply vote your ballot, stick a stamp on it and mail it out. You could even do that in your bunny slippers while watching your favorite movie! Additionally, we have vote centers open for both **early voting** and **election day**. If you make a mistake on your ballot, or you need to update your voter registration, you can go to **ANY** vote center in **your county** to get a ballot and you don't have to wait until Election Day to do so. But the key here, is that **people only vote in an election IF THEY CARE about it**.

I come to you today to share my **serious concern** over the impact that House Bill 19-1278 could cause, if passed. House Bill 19-1278 takes focus away from being a mail ballot state, from the progress we've made to ensure all voters have **easy** access to voting. This bill takes money out of citizen's pockets to correct an issue that **doesn't exist**. This bill **creates voter confusion**. Most importantly, it doesn't address the issue truly at the heart of our elections - voter turnout. **VOTER TURNOUT CAN ONLY BE INCREASED IF INTEREST EXISTS AND IF VOTERS ARE EDUCATED AND ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHT.**

I urge you to vote **NO** on this bill. We are Colorado. We are **nationally recognized and respected** for our mountains, our snow, and our elections model (just to name a few). We are privileged and lucky. Let's keep improving our elections and be the leader that we are by collaborating together at the same table without House Bill 19-1278. Thank you.

