

**Statement by former State Senator Polly Baca  
2008, 2012, 2016 Presidential Elector**

I am here as a 2016 Presidential Elector from Colorado to testify in support of SB17-099 and to submit statements from my colleagues: Presidential Electors Robert Nemanich from Colorado Springs CD-5 and Jerad Sutton from Greeley CD-4. I was also a Presidential Elector in 2008 and 2012.

As Presidential Electors we recognize the damage that is done when elected officials in a Democracy are not elected by the principle of one person/one vote as all of you on this Committee represent. Out of the millions of elected officials that we have in our country, the only elected position that does not honor the democratic principle of one person/one vote is the President of the United States.

When the Electoral College was conceived in Federalist Paper 68 by Alexander Hamilton, we did not have a highly educated population that was informed by many different means like the electronic media and the internet. Today Americans receive daily information with which to make decisions, regardless of who they are and where they live.

We are a national population with equal rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States that supersedes our state constitutions. In addition, we have a high degree of mobility. I wonder how many of our Senators were born in Colorado?

My family came north from Mexico to northern New Mexico and southern Colorado in 1600. I had a great great uncle who served in the Colorado Territorial legislature and another who was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1878. However, I also have a sister, brother-in-law and nephews who live in Virginia, cousins who live in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Florida and probably a few more states.

I wonder why my vote for President of the United States should count any more or less than that of my relatives. Our President should be elected by a national popular vote of all Americans, regardless of where they live – even those living abroad. SB 99 will help correct this inequity by instructing me, if once again I am elected to the Electoral College, to vote for whoever receives the most votes for President of the United States. That would allow future Presidents of the United States to know that he or she was elected by a majority of their American constituents – an honor that each of you has. I urge each of you to protect our democracy and vote for SB 99.

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