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SENATE CHAMBER
OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

February 19, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 43

The Senate on Ethics, Elections and Local Government:
Chair: Senator Elaine Bowers
Vice-Chair: Senator Randall Hardy
Ranking Minority Member: Senator David Haley
Senator Kevin Braun, Senator Jim Denning, Senator Carolyn McGinn, Senator John Skubal and
Senator Susan Wagel

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for
the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 43:

This bill would allow voters to register on Election Day and will improve citizen participation in
democracy as it already has in nine states that allow this system. A 2009 study found the top five
voter turnout states in the 2008 presidential election were Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Maine
and Massachusetts’ neighbor, New Hampshire. All have Election Day registration.

The bill would ease rules for absentee voting, build in a system using e-mail for some voting
administration and allow teenagers to pre-register before they reach voting age.

The bill’s centerpiece would allow for voters to register on Election Day.

Same-day registration would allow citizens to register by simply presenting a valid government-
issued photo identification card and proof of residence at their polling place. Proponents say it
would prevent the disenfranchisement of citizens.

Voter participation helps transform voting from a privilege to a civil right that it’s meant to be.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support SB-43

Sincerely,

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau