



*Testimony in support of
H.78– Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution
to provide for no excuse absentee voting
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Election Laws
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The League of Women Voters urges support for an amendment for “no excuse absentee voting.”
The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy, and voting should be as easy and accessible as possible.

Current criteria for voting absentee—being out of town which prevents casting a ballot when polls are open, religious reasons, or having a physical disability—are insufficient for many qualified voters. This includes elderly but otherwise healthy citizens who have difficulty waiting in long lines and/or dealing with severe weather, those with work and educational schedules and difficult commutes that prevent getting to the polls before they close, and care givers with fragile dependents.

Transportation to the polls is often an impediment. Some polling places are located far from residential areas.

There is also the potential for voting absentee to help reduce problems with registration, since errors in the poll books could be discovered and corrected in advance.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts strongly urges the committee to vote positively on H.78.