



Attachment A
LWV of Idaho-President Susan Ripley
H 223
April 7, 2021

April 7, 2021

To: Chairwoman Lodge and members of the Senate State Affairs Committee

From League of Women Voters of Idaho, Susan Ripley, president

RE: Oppose HB 223

Thank you for providing the opportunity to give testimony remotely today.

My name is Kathy Dawes, and I am speaking on behalf of Susan Ripley, President of the League of Women Voters of Idaho. The League is opposed to House bill 223. This bill is intended to address a perception that fraud is being perpetrated by Idahoans who gather, and may manipulate, multiple ballots from others and deliver them to drop off boxes or election offices. It is alleged by proponents of this bill that this introduces opportunities for individuals with ill intent to alter official election ballots. If it is not happening, proponents say, it could.

The perception that Idahoans are, or could, perpetrate this kind of voter fraud, was the impetus for House bill 223.

Here is the reality: There is zero evidence that those who help others submit their ballots are intent on changing them for fraudulent purposes. Since this bill was introduced, the League has received queries from disabled individuals anxious that this bill would limit their right to vote. Others at risk of being disenfranchised include: elders with no nearby family who are no longer able to drive; nursing home residents; hospital patients; low-income Idahoans lacking reliable transportation; members of rural Native American tribes; and individuals in working class jobs without the privilege of time off. These are our neighbors, our friends – hard-working Idahoans simply seeking a voice in their state's government. Idahoans help one another – it is the Idaho way. The League does not recognize House bill 223's portrayal of our state and strongly recommends this bill's defeat.