**Public Comments – Monday Feb. 22, 2021 – Teresa Bomhoff**

My comments can be a bit frosty, but I believe in being honest and transparent in my communications, especially concerning something as important as voting.

Please **do not** pass **SF413** *(formerly SSB1199)* **and HF590** *(formerly HSB213) – the Voter Suppression bills.*

The bill is an insult to me, the citizens of Iowa, to our democracy, and the rights of citizens to a fundamental right under the U.S. Constitution.

The bill is particularly offensive to the League of Women Voters. We fought hard for over 70 years to obtain the right for women to vote in 1920. The 19th amendment doubled the number of voters in the U.S. Voting is especially precious to us.

1. This bill shows fear of citizen involvement – deterring people to vote instead of finding ways to encourage more people to vote. In the last election, there were **new records for Voter Participation:**
 Over 90% of Iowa’s eligible population are now actively registered to vote -
 2,124,895 people.

 76% of all registered voters in Iowa participated in the 2020 general election -
 2,095,581 people.

What a wonderful accomplishment! Let’s continue the encouragement.

1. The reasons cited for why the bill is necessary are fraudulent.
* In comments made by a legislator - the big lie was perpetuated that the former President lost a second term because of a stolen election. Multiple lawsuits and respected people have said otherwise. Why back the big lie? Some are afraid of him or want to emulate him and/or are looking for money to support future campaigns. What a waste of Iowa talent.
* Other states do not have similar early voting timeframes. Iowa is not in the middle of the states with 18 days to return an absentee ballot. 3 states have 40-66 days, 33 states have 30-45 days, 13 states have fewer than 30, Massachusetts has 21 days and Iowa will be at the bottom of the barrel with 18 if the voter suppression bills are passed. [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org) 5 states have “all mail elections”.
* Iowa does not have a voter fraud problem. The 2020 election has been called the “the most secure in American History” by Homeland Security. Iowa has a safe and fair election process. There were no complaints filed. We should be proud of Iowa’s present election process!! The last person to commit in-person voter fraud in Iowa was caught after having voted for the former President twice.
1. There are no states that currently require absentee ballots to be received prior to Election Day. Please do not make a mockery of our state to others by having these onerous rules.

1. The rush to shove the bill through the Legislature shows desperation to win at any cost
 with a goal of reducing public awareness. Like it or not, as sponsors of this bill, the majority party is held accountable for this travesty of a bill.
2. Cancel voter registrations? Another slap in the face of every voter in Iowa. Cancelling voter registrations used to be horror stories from southern states – not Iowa. Please do not drag our state down into the muck with these underhanded tactics.
3. County auditors (election officials) are given less time to complete abundantly more tasks with no additional money – what a formula for mistakes to be made. They are then kicked with criminal penalties if mistakes are made – intentional or not. I’d like “Iowa nice” back, please.

There are an abundance of other pieces of the bill that are bad. It simply makes me sad, or mad. The justification for taking these actions is reprehensible and distorted.

Please restore the honor of the majority party by withdrawing or refusing to pass SF413 and HF590. Please keep early voting processes generous.

Thank you for having a public hearing.