To: The Iowa Legislature

I am against this bill and any bill that would restrict the rights of Iowa voters to participate in our elections. I am a lifelong Iowan and have never missed voting in a presidential election. I take great pride in voting and having the right to vote. I enjoyed going to the polls on Election Day to vote and I always looked at the number on the voting machine when my ballot went through so that I would know my ballot was counted. This past election I could not do that because of Covid. I mailed in my ballot so that I would not have to risk my life or the lives of my family members to vote. There are many reasons why people can’t go in person and you should be proud of people who still participate in the election process instead of trying to punish them. All Iowans should be allowed to vote by mail and to have at least 30 days before an election to do so or by early voting in person. I am glad that Iowa has mail in voting an early voting so that all Iowans have the opportunity to vote. You get one vote and when you place that vote whether it is 30 days before the election or the day of you should have already made up your mind. Iowans should be proud that we had a record number of people voting an according to the Quad City Times the most in state history. I think that’s great and we should be celebrating that fact. I also know when you have so many people voting it takes time to receive the mail and to record the vote. Before the pandemic hit I participated in and was the caucus chair for my local precinct. 2020 was the 100th anniversary of women having the right to vote and I proudly displayed a sign stating so. We should not be going backwards we should be moving forward so that all Iowa voters have options to participate in our elections and encourage people to care about having the right to vote. I think everyone would agree 2020 was a horrible year and the loss of life has been horrific. The one thing we should all be proud of is that Iowans showed they really care about their right to vote. You should never want to limit, restrict or punish the people you represent for voting.

Veronica Bales