High voter turnout is essential for a healthy democracy. Restricting citizens from exercising this American right is undemocratic. The 2020 General Election showed that absentee voting was secure without significant evidence of fraud and more Americans voted.

Easily available early voting and absentee voting is essential for all American for many reasons, listed below:

1. I am currently a retire physician, but worked many long hours and holidays in hospitals and clinics during my 33 years of medical practice. Doctors and the many other ‘essential workers’ cannot take time off of work to vote in person before the polls close and need access to absentee voting.
2. Not every Iowan owns or drives an automobile and can easily travel to remote ballot drops which puts the elderly, very poor, and disabled in our state
3. During this pandemic, problems with lack of internet for remote learning and COVID vaccination have emphasis that there is a significant number of Iowans who would have trouble *requesting* absentee ballots by mail. If the County Auditor does not send out the request form by mail, they may not get to vote.

**Legislative tampering with Iowa voters’ right to cast a vote by restricting access to early voting, *which HF 590 will do,* would be an insult to Iowans who participate in your election to office and wholly undemocratic. I respectfully request that HF not go forward. The voting system is not broken.**

Kathleen Foster-Wendel