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Testimony: HB 5061 & HB 5062

Common Cause Michigan appreciates the opportunity to comment on the following bills: HB 5061 & HB 5062. Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization, dedicated to restoring the core values of American democracy, reinventing an open, honest and accountable government that serves the public interest, and empowering ordinary people to make their voices heard in the political process.

HB 5061:

We believe that components of this bill would add unnecessary burdens to the rights of Michigan's citizens to vote. The amendment to section 761 of HB 5061 which pertains to voter identification requirements for picking up absentee ballots at a clerk's office resembles the effort we have seen around the country to limit the right to vote. This effort imposes a particular burden on our senior citizens, students, and other citizens who vote absentee.

HB 5062:

Common Cause supports affective post election audits as well as education of election officials to ensure uniformity in the implementation of all voting rights and laws throughout the state. We support the topics in this bill, and would be open to conversations with its sponsors to ensure that audit procedures and training requirements are implemented properly. We support the concepts that are laid out in this bill. Implementation and execution is critically important with regards to voting integrity. Common Cause has been working on the issue of electronic voting machines as part of our campaign to increase electoral integrity. The most basic of all democratic principles is that all eligible votes are counted, and while we are currently neutral on this bill, we are willing to help strengthen provisions on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to address our concerns about these voting bills as we enter a critical election year.