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**From:** Stephen Wooden <stephen.f.wooden@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2012 7:42 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Attachments:** SB 754.docx

[REDACTED]

I would like to submit my testimony for today's hearing on SB754 in the House Committee of Elections. It is attached to this email. Thank you, and sorry if this is too late to be read. Enjoy your day.

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Stephen Wooden

616 304 5555

Good Morning Esteemed Members of the Committee,

As a student and an active resident of the City of East Lansing, I have to voice my concerns regarding SB 754. While a freshman, a young woman knocked on my dormroom door. This young woman was registering voters. She did not have any training from the Secretary of State's office, nor did she have any credentials; this young woman had only forms, and a passion for participation. In my doorway I was told about the importance of student representation. She reminded me that decisions are only made by those who show up. Since I registered with her in the fall of 2009, I have voted in 6 of the past 6 elections. This includes municipals, primaries, general elections, and even special elections. I'm not saying this to brag about my sparkling attendance, and good acquaintance with the City Clerk. I'm sharing this because that young woman inspired me.

Her passion for student representation led me to get involved myself. I joined the University Student Commission that fall, and was appointed to the East Lansing Planning Commission just last summer. I joined with that same voter registration effort my sophomore year, and will be leading a non-partisan student voter registration drive this fall. This is all because I believe that students deserve just as much voice as anyone else. The policies passed by political bodies, no matter the size, affect my generation more than it does any else.

Passing Senate Bill 754 will prevent students from being registered at the same magnitude they have before. Unlike an average homeowner, students change their addresses regularly. Every year in the last two weeks of August, most student residents of East Lansing change their addresses. For years, dedicated students have welcomed each of these students with voter registration forms. The unnecessary red tape established by this bill will limit the number

of people to help register my generation. Without these people, students wouldn't have the same resources to get registered. Nor do I believe that the City Clerk's office would be well equipped enough to register each of these students on their own. I believe without a doubt that SB 754 will limit the number of students registered in my community. How can we encourage good citizenship in one hand, and prohibit facilitating it in the other? If this committee truly cares about the integrity of our elections as the voice of the people, then they should not allow this bill to become law.

Thank You