

To our esteemed legislature,

I am writing in personal support of HJ 161. As a disabled woman who has become intimately familiar with others who are also marginalized, and as a politically active American committed to upholding democracy, I know firsthand that early voting is more than a matter of convenience. It is a matter of ending disenfranchisement.

By expanding participation to all eligible voters, we will better our commitment to ensuring we are a nation of the people, for the people, and by the people. Democracy nears perfection only when every person's voice is accounted for. This begins by improving and broadening access to eligible voters.

I will leave you with the words of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan: "For this Nation to remain true to its principles, we cannot allow any American's vote to be denied, diluted, or defiled. The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished."

Sincerely,  
Alyssa MacKenzie  
New Canaan