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LD 1578

Hello, my name is Yashu Derisala and I am a student of Scarborough High School. I am writing in support of LD 1578.

The electoral college was originally designed by the founders at the last minute with the intent of representing every state proportionately. The original system was to allow electors to cast two votes for president, and whoever got the most votes from the electors would be elected president. As this system evolved, it raised some questions about fair representation. For example, Dr. Chris Derosa, the Chair of the Department of History and Anthropology discusses representation and how “more people live in D.C than in Wyoming, the least populous state in the union; but they both get three electoral votes” (monmouth.com). In the early United States southern states used the electoral college coupled with the 3/5ths compromise which counted slaves as 3/5ths of a person inflating the south’s representation. This advantage in the electoral college persists today but in a different fashion. Because the electoral college is based on the number of members in the senate and the house of representatives each state has which favors smaller states. For example in Wyoming, each electoral vote they have represents about 193,000 voters. But in California each electoral vote represents about 730,000 which means a voter in Wyoming has 3.8 times the impact of a voter in California.

Thank you for listening to me about LD 1578. I urge you to vote ought to pass.

-Yashu.D