

Jeremy Nichols

Milo

LD 718

Chairperson, members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 718. This bill would ensure that municipal clerks issue absentee ballots only to individuals registered to vote in that municipality—whether directly to the voter, an immediate family member, or a designated third party authorized by the voter. Additionally, it would repeal the provision allowing voters to apply for ongoing absentee voter status.

This legislation is a common-sense measure to safeguard election integrity. The current system raises concerns about ballots potentially being issued to individuals who are no longer eligible. Restricting absentee ballots to registered voters within the municipality they reside in helps ensure that only qualified voters participate in elections.

Furthermore, the existing provision allowing individuals aged 65 or older, or those who self-identify as having a disability, to receive an ongoing absentee ballot indefinitely is problematic. Voter status can change—people move, change political affiliations, or unfortunately pass away. Without proper oversight, ongoing absentee ballots could be sent to addresses where the intended recipient no longer resides, raising concerns about potential misuse.

Election integrity has been a growing concern in recent years. Transparency and accountability in the voting process are essential to maintaining public trust. LD 718 is a step in the right direction to reinforce confidence in our elections.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support LD 718 and recommend its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.