

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 3475

Wendy Frome, Albany

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I do not profess to be a scholar of the Constitution of the United States, but I have a strong belief that the Constitution is an inspired document and it is the only reason we are a free nation today.

I strongly oppose HB 3475 because of the intent to bypass the Constitution.

While at first glance, it may seem like a president should be elected by popular vote rather than by designated electors, there is a reason why the Founding Fathers determined this important election should be conducted in this manner.

Many do not understand the difference between a republic and a democracy and there is not time in this hearing for that lesson. So, I would ask members of the committee and interested parties to read the Federalist Papers, starting with Number 10 and Number 68.

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fed_68.html

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fed_10.html

There is no reason to make changes to a system that is working so well. No system is perfect. We are human beings trying to do the best we can.

The beauty of the Constitution is that checks and balances are included to protect us from our human frailties. Changes to this document could result in unforeseen problems that are far more troublesome than the imperfections in the system we have now.

I trust the wisdom of the men who worked laboriously to construct this great document.

I will close with a statement by James Madison:

“Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.

A republic, by which I mean a government in which the scheme of representation takes place, opens a different prospect, and promises the cure for which we are seeking.”
(Federalist Papers, No. 10)