

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

For years I have watched friends in Oregon vote for a third party presidential candidate, swap votes with someone in a swing state, or not vote at all because they said their votes do not count in Oregon which always votes Democratic in Presidential elections. Likewise in the state I moved from, Texas, many people I know do not bother to vote because they say their vote will not count in a "red" state.

NPR looked at voting turnout rates and found that the majority of battleground states had voter turnout rates far above the national rate (measured as the percentage of eligible voters who participated in the election). (*Turnout Tended To Be Higher In Battleground States*, November, 2016).

You have the power to help end voter apathy across the nation. You have the ability to correct a flawed aspect in what our forefathers called "this great experiment in democracy." I urge you to vote quickly, enabling the bill to move on for a vote in the full House and then on to the Senate. Senate President Courtney's staff has assured me that he will allow the bill to be voted on in the Senate this session.

Sincerely,

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