

Dear Senator Hardy and Assistant Parker,

I'm emailing to ask that your Committee consider the independence and privacy of Vermont blind and low vision voters in today's hearing on H429, which would permit electronic return of by mail ballots. Young people like my daughter who use technology to read, like refreshable braille displays and screen readers, deserve the dignity (and democratic enjoyment and participation) to get a ballot and return it without asking a sighted person for reading and writing assistance. I love that our town elections are 100% full-on efforts in getting ballots to all who request them, and I see our election officials will go out of their way to meet the needs of voters with disabilities. But in 2023, with all people enjoying the ease and benefits of advanced technology, I hope my kid will turn 18 and just like everyone else submit her ballot privately and capably (with use of electronic return) without calling on a sighted helper to fill it out.

Thanks,
Katie Lane-Karnas
Calais, VT