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Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Support for S.297 – Mobile Voting Opt-In Legislation

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations,

I am writing to express my support for S.297, legislation that would establish a mobile voting opt-in system in Vermont. I am a 2022 graduate of Middlebury College, and since graduation I have been living and working full-time in Vermont. I now feel lucky enough to consider myself a Vermonter, and I believe that S.297 represents a crucial step forward in modernizing our electoral system and strengthening democratic participation across this state we call home.

As a young person, it can be easy to be discouraged by the state of our politics and society as a whole. My friends and I, both liberal and conservative, have been raised in an age of cynicism and polarization; loss of belief in our institutions; and an overall lack of faith in our government's ability to address the problems of our times. We are the generation with the least capacity to afford an education; the greatest difficulty buying a home; and the most pervasive struggles with meaning and purpose.

Simultaneously, though, in 2026 we possess the potential for profound improvement and widespread success. Technology has made knowledge and communication widely accessible; diverse perspectives are prevalent and plentiful; and we are fueled by a common belief that we can and must build a better future. We are excited to wrestle with the questions of our times and, through the democratic process, create solutions, together.

Mobile voting accessibility presents a unique opportunity to further encourage this kind of civic engagement. In my role serving on the Burlington Board for Registration of Voters, I have seen how accessing voting can be challenging for military personnel and people with disabilities – Mobile voting could make the democratic process available for these individuals, in addition to more broadly encouraging everyday people juggling multiple responsibilities to vote. In an era where we can manage our finances, healthcare, and other sensitive matters from our mobile phones, it should be logical that we can participate in elections this way, too. It's 2026: Let's start voting like it!

S.297's opt-in approach is particularly commendable, as it respects voter choice on how to vote while providing an additional pathway for participation. Additionally, it allows municipalities the freedom to decide how they might implement mobile voting technology while maintaining election security and respecting municipal budgets and workflows.

Please support S.297 and help position Vermont as a leader in accessible, modern voting practices. Our state has a proud tradition of civic engagement, and this legislation will help ensure that tradition continues to flourish in the 21st century.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for your service to Vermont.

Sincerely,
Alex Demoly