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

Support for Mobile Voting and S.297

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

Please consider supporting S.297 to enable smartphone-based voting in Vermont.

I moved to Vermont in 2017 to attend UVM. Throughout my education, I interned for two sessions in the State Legislature, conducted research on Town Meeting Days throughout the state, and published articles about election integrity and voter participation in Vermont Business Magazine. Since graduating from UVM in 2021, I've worked as a paralegal right here in Vermont and remained civically engaged by volunteering for political campaigns and organizations I believe in.

It's no secret that young people are feeling increasingly frustrated about government, and with good reason. As our politics have become more contentious, I've watched friends of mine pull back their participation in our community: They volunteer less, and they frequently don't vote, because they don't think that their voice will make a difference. This is directly at odds with our Vermont tradition of an engaged, tightly knit public.

Mobile voting would a strong step in reversing this trend. By removing unnecessary barriers to voting while maintaining or even increasing our election security practices, we can jumpstart civic participation and get our politics back on track. After all, we already use our phones to manage our banking, healthcare, and communications – Why not use them to vote, too?

S.297 is a great opportunity to reengage young people in the political process, and I hope you'll support it. Thank you so much for your service to Vermont and wishing you a successful rest of session.

Best,
Nick Beal