

June 20, 2019

My name is Fiona Yu and I am a resident of Malden and am the Worker Center Coordinator at the Chinese Progressive Association. Each year we register hundreds of new voters and contact thousands of registered voters to educate them on their voting rights and remind them to vote. We also offer citizenship classes and encourage new citizens to register to vote.

We're testifying on behalf of the Chinese Progressive Association in support of Rep Benson, Rep Malia, and Senator Creem's Election Day Registration bills because we believe it is the best proposal to increase voter access and empower immigrant communities.

In May 2006, I became a naturalized citizen and immediately registered to vote. September 2006 would have been my first time voting. To me, one of the most important benefits of being an American citizen is the right to vote. However, when I went to vote that year, I gave my name and ID to the poll worker but they couldn't find my name.

Then, I showed the poll worker my registration confirmation letter, but the poll worker refused to let me vote because there was an error in my address. I was very disappointed that I was turned away. I can imagine many have had the same experience as me, especially people who are even less proficient in English.

With Election Day Registration, I would have been able to vote on September 2006. Democracy is one of the core values of American society and we should work towards expanding democracy. EDR will help increase vote engagement and expand democracy.

Thank you.

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