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Voting can be a challenge

As someone living with cerebral palsy in a very rural part of Wisconsin, I share the concerns of the disability community statewide about a set of bills going through the Legislature that would make it especially hard for people like me to vote.

I do not drive, and my polling place is not close enough for me to access without arranging for a driver, which presents its own unique challenges. For those reasons, absentee voting makes the most sense for me. Depending on the postal service has been questionable in recent elections. I need to know my ballot will be delivered, and for me, asking a trusted friend or support staff to deliver it is the most reliable option.

The set of bills lawmakers are considering would make my limited options even harder. The support staff that I rely on daily fluctuates because of the high turnover and relatively low pay. If I need to rely on someone to deliver my ballot on my behalf, I want to have the flexibility to pick the most trustworthy and dependable individual. If needed, I could designate this person in

writing ahead of time. If that extra step is required, it should be easy and straightforward to update that information, as necessary.

Lawmakers should be working with us to remove the voting barriers we already have, not make it even harder for people like me to vote. We will build the best version of democracy only if everyone is able to participate.

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