



May 14, 2020

Chair Barry R. Finegold
24 Beacon Street
Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Chair John J. Lawn
24 Beacon Street
Room 445
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Finegold and Chair Lawn:

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council, I respectfully urge the Joint Committee on Election Laws to **favorably report election safety legislation, including HD 5075**, out of the Committee for quick action by the Legislature. We are heartened by the multitude of smart and effective approaches offered by our public officials and share the overwhelming recognition that swift is action is necessary.

Embedded in JCRC's mission is the obligation to promote an American society which is democratic, pluralistic and just. We support policies that (1) identify and remove barriers to and increase voter registration and voter turnout and (2) ensure the security and sustainability of our election system infrastructure.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the inadequacies of our voting system to operate safely during a public health crisis and created an immediate need to address these issues ahead of the 2020 elections. To protect our vulnerable populations and the integrity of our upcoming elections, the Commonwealth must act to expand absentee voting including no-excuse absentee voting and other increased vote by mail options; preserve in-person voting, carefully balancing the safety of poll workers and voters, and minimizing suppressive tactics; and expand early voting options

Therefore, the JCRC and our member organizations respectfully request that the Committee report HD.5075 out favorably as quickly as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions at aagulnek@jcrcboston.org.

Respectfully,

Aaron Agulnek
Director, Government Affairs

cc: Joint Committee on Election Laws