



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 4, 2008

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

House Concurrent Resolution 267, HD1 – Requesting the Office of Elections to Provide an Informational Briefing and Demonstration to the Appropriate Senate and House Committees Regarding the Operation and Use of New Electronic Voting Systems and to Provide Information Prior to Contracting to Purchase any New Voting Software or Equipment Related to Any New Voting System

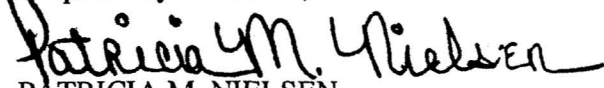
The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Concurrent Resolution 267, HD1 – Requesting the Office of Elections to Provide an Informational Briefing and Demonstration to the Appropriate Senate and House Committees Regarding the Operation and Use of New Electronic Voting Systems and to Provide Information Prior to Contracting to Purchase any New Voting Software or Equipment Related to Any New Voting System with comments.

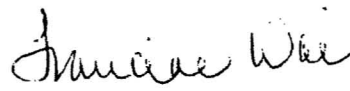
The DCAB worked with the Office of Elections on a grant to make elections accessible to voters with disabilities under the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. During the 2004 and 2006 Elections, DRE voting machines were used at each polling place allowing voters with disabilities the opportunity to vote independently and privately. An informational briefing to demonstrate new accessible electronic voting equipment to the Legislature is an excellent idea, and will provide first hand information about new voting equipment.

DRE machines, while useful and available to all voters are the means to make the procedure of casting a ballot accessible to people with disabilities, especially those with visual limitations. Thus, we would not want any demonstration to delay the implementation of the use of the machines. We defer to the Office of Elections on this procedural issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,


PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee


FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director