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Survival Coalition: Bills Create Added Voting Barriers for People with Disabilities

(Madison) – Today’s scheduled Assembly vote could move forward legislation that will create added barriers for many people with disabilities and older adults to vote. The Survival Coalition of more than 20 statewide disability organizations is concerned about the impact of these bills on the Assembly calendar: AB192, SB 204/AB 201, SB 205/AB 179, SB 212/AB 198.

Recent amendments have made slight improvements, but Survival Coalition has the following concerns that have not been addressed:

- The bills eliminate the option for people with disabilities to be a permanent absentee voter and always receive an absentee ballot. (indefinitely confined voter)
- Any voter who wants to vote absentee would need to apply for an absentee ballot for **every** election instead of requesting an absentee ballot for the year.
- The bills make it a crime for nursing homes or group home staff to offer residents information about absentee voting. Staff have a duty to support residents with their right to vote.
- Many people don’t have access to the internet or computer to request an absentee ballot or a scanner to upload an ID.

Survival Coalition welcomes the opportunity to work with policy makers to share how these bills impact voters with disabilities and to offer ways to make voting more accessible for people with disabilities and older adults so they can fully participate in elections.

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Investing in People with Disabilities