

Submitter:	Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB952

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 952, which mandates that the Governor must appoint a U.S. Senator when a vacancy arises in the office. While I understand the intent to ensure continuity and stability in our state's representation, I believe this legislation raises significant concerns about democratic accountability and the independence of our elected officials.

Appointing a senator without a special election diminishes the voice of the voters and bypasses the democratic process that should be fundamental to our political system. Voters should have the opportunity to choose their representatives directly, especially in such an important role as a U.S. Senator. Relying on gubernatorial appointments can lead to appointments based on political considerations rather than the will of the people.

Furthermore, such appointments can undermine public trust in our electoral system and potentially favor the political interests of the sitting governor over the broader interests of our constituents. Ensuring that vacancies are filled through a timely special election preserves transparency and democratic legitimacy.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose SB 952. I believe that maintaining the current process, which includes a special election to fill Senate vacancies, best serves the principles of our democracy and the interests of our constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.