

Chair Bowman and members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing in support of HB2006. While not taking a position on the specific allocations in the bill, I support the concept of reducing the number of bills coming before the legislature in odd-numbered years.

Speaking from the perspective of an interested citizen, I have found it hard to follow issues I care about because of the plethora of bills that may address the same issue in slightly different ways. I know that many other people experience this same confusion and frequently withdraw from advocacy because of it. Reducing the number of bills that are introduced would make it more likely that legislators would work together to introduce one bill rather than similar competing bills. This would be helpful for everyone.

In addition, our part time citizen legislature is stressed to accomplish all that we need them to do. Becoming familiar with important bills would be easier for all if there were fewer to follow. I feel that the legislature sometimes fails to meet the challenge of both legislating and overseeing the impact of legislation. Anything that reduces the workload of legislators would help increase government efficacy.

We are now in the final stage of rapid consideration of bills. I don't know which is more disturbing for a citizen advocate at this time - the rapid agreement on bills with last minute amendments where there is little chance to advocate, or the failure to consider bills that reflect important issues. All of these problems are partially driven by the need to accommodate so many bills.

Finally, the amount of staff time and dedication required to write, vet, analyze, and amend bills while informing legislators of their content, cost and impact is significant. I am impressed with what a good job they do. However, doing less with more time to thoughtfully accomplish these tasks would result in better legislation.

As always, I am grateful for your service,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.