



**Written Testimony of
Janet L. Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.
For the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
April 22, 2019**

Re: Support for AB 168 relating to the requirement for stating name and address prior to voting

Chair Tusler, Vice-Chair Sanfelippo, and members of the Campaign and Elections Committee,

The Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. delivers innovative support, training, technical assistance and oversight to lead aging agencies in 70 counties (all except Dane and Milwaukee) and 11 tribes. We work together to promote, protect, and enhance the well-being of older people in Wisconsin.

We believe AB 168 enhances the well-being of older people with disabilities by assisting those who due to their disability are unable to state their name and address prior to voting, as required under current law, to meet the requirements through alternative means. This legislation would allow adults with disabilities of any age to meet the requirement by presenting their valid voter identifications to an election official for confirmation and then either the election official, or another person selected by the voter, would then state the voter's name and address.

The older adult population accounts for a large portion of voters during elections. Yet, we know not all people have equal opportunities to engage in this civic action. Health, social, and economic status can present barriers to voting for some citizens. An older adult who has had a stroke might have difficulty speaking, yet still be able to and want to vote. There are a variety of disabilities and medical conditions that can affect speech. AB 168 helps to address barriers faced by those whose disability has affected their ability to speak by creating an alternative process for them to meet the "state your name and address" requirement to vote.

One in five people eligible to vote has a disability. The voter registration and voting process must be accessible to all voters. We ask for your support of AB 168 so older adults (including those residing in long-term care residential settings) and adults of any age with a disability affecting their ability to meet this voting requirement can continue to exercise this most important civic responsibility.

We look forward to working with you to shape public policy that improves the quality of life of older people throughout the state.

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