



1321 Dauphin St.
Mobile, AL 36604

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Adline Clarke
11 South Union St.
Suite 540-B
Montgomery, AL 36130-2950

Also via electronic mail

Dear Representative Clarke,

I am writing as President of the League of Women Voters and your constituent to ask you to support HB 396 which would make some small changes to our absentee voting process. This bill would remove the excuse requirement when applying for and casting an absentee ballot. It would create a more realistic time-frame for the receipt, processing, and voting an absentee ballot. It would fund additional optional staff to assist with absentee voting. All this would be done with safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the vote. Voters will still provide a copy of their photo voter ID when applying and two witness signatures or notarized voter signature on the ballot's affidavit envelope.

As you know, the League of Women Voters has a hundred-year history of advocating for full, free, and fair elections. We support House Bill 396 because we believe that voting should be convenient, secure, and transparent so that every voter has access to the electoral system. By making these small changes, HB 396 furthers these objectives while keeping safeguards to the voting process still in place.

We are pleased that Secretary Merrill supports this bill. We encourage you and your fellow committee members to show your support of the bill by voting it favorably out of committee and passing it when brought to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Respectfully,

Barbara Caddell
President, LWVAL
251-610-2279