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The Senate Corporations Committee

By Email RE HB 0209

Dear Senator Landen and Members of the Committee:

HB0209 has passed the House. Please kill it in the Senate. It is based on faulty premises and creates problems rather than solutions.

Some apparently believe that numerous Democrats routinely change their affiliation to Republican to vote for less conservative gubernatorial candidates. There is no sound evidence of this ([Wyoming Public media.org/post/theories-behind-mark-gordons-victory](http://WyomingPublicMedia.org/post/theories-behind-mark-gordons-victory)). In fact, there is evidence against it. The Secretary of State's website gives voter registration figures by month, with a separate list of voter registration totals on Primary Election Day:

	1-Aug, 2018	21-Aug, 2018	Difference
Constitution	805	782	-23
Democratic	46,925	46,378	-547
Libertarian	2,423	2,386	-37
Republican	177,604	180,383	2,779
Unaffiliated	36,662	36 105	-557
Other	131	127	-4

My totals (ignoring + or -):
264,550 66,160 3,947

There were 9,109 more votes for Mr. Gordon than for Mr. Friess. The number of registered Democrats declined by a mere 547. More unaffiliated changed. Other GOP gubernatorial candidates received 48,039 votes. That's more than all the registered Democrats in the state. Changing affiliation does not explain the difference between their final tallies.

Limiting affiliation changes solves a phantom problem. It creates a real one. While the bill doesn't define "major political party," it does unfairly discriminate against a class of voters. As an election judge for 22 years, I have seen voters on primary day receiving their ballots and being indignant. Their preferred candidate is not on their ballot. They change affiliation immediately to vote their preference. That's the way it ought to be. This bill harms people's ability to vote for their choice.

Let's deal with real problems, not phantoms. In 2018, only 60% of the voting age population was registered and only 52% of them voted. We all need to work on that issue.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Simpson, President