

1651 Lerner Hall
New York, NY 10027-8308
mlc67@columbia.edu

February 20, 2002

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose S. 565, the “Equal Protection of Voting Act,” so long as it includes photo identification requirements for first time voters.

Voters will be treated differently depending on when they registered and how they registered. There is no justifiable reason to require identification from one person and not another. History shows that such requirements are not uniformly applied and have in fact been used as a method to turn away voters based on their ethnicity.

Photo ID requirements would have a chilling effect on voter participation, especially among young people. At least 1.5 million undergraduates are currently attending school out of state. Most of these students—including me—do not have documentation or a photo ID that display a local address, despite my involvement in local issues and politics. Studies show that voter participation, among young people, has significantly declined over the years. Imposing addition barriers could threaten to decrease participation even further. The right to vote is fundamental and the exercise of this right must not be contingent on a person’s ability to produce identification.

Again, I urge you to oppose S. 565, the “Equal Protection of Voting Act,” so long as it includes photo identification requirements for first time voters.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman

1651 Lerner Hall
New York, NY 10027-8308
mlc67@columbia.edu

February 20, 2002

Senator Hillary Clinton
476 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Clinton:

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose S. 565, the “Equal Protection of Voting Act,” so long as it includes photo identification requirements for first time voters.

Voters will be treated differently depending on when they registered and how they registered. There is no justifiable reason to require identification from one person and not another. History shows that such requirements are not uniformly applied and have in fact been used as a method to turn away voters based on their ethnicity.

Photo ID requirements would have a chilling effect on voter participation, especially among young people. At least 1.5 million undergraduates are currently attending school out of state. Most of these students—including me—do not have documentation or a photo ID that display a local address, despite my involvement in local issues and politics. Studies show that voter participation, among young people, has significantly declined over the years. Imposing addition barriers could threaten to decrease participation even further. The right to vote is fundamental and the exercise of this right must not be contingent on a person’s ability to produce identification.

Again, I urge you to oppose S. 565, the “Equal Protection of Voting Act,” so long as it includes photo identification requirements for first time voters.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman

1651 Lerner Hall
New York, NY 10027-8308
mlc67@columbia.edu

February 20, 2002

Senator Charles Schumer
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose S. 565, the “Equal Protection of Voting Act,” so long as it includes photo identification requirements for first time voters.

Voters will be treated differently depending on when they registered and how they registered. There is no justifiable reason to require identification from one person and not another. History shows that such requirements are not uniformly applied and have in fact been used as a method to turn away voters based on their ethnicity.

Photo ID requirements would have a chilling effect on voter participation, especially among young people. At least 1.5 million undergraduates are currently attending school out of state. Most of these students—including me—do not have documentation or a photo ID that display a local address, despite my involvement in local issues and politics. Studies show that voter participation, among young people, has significantly declined over the years. Imposing addition barriers could threaten to decrease participation even further. The right to vote is fundamental and the exercise of this right must not be contingent on a person’s ability to produce identification.

Again, I urge you to oppose S. 565, the “Equal Protection of Voting Act,” so long as it includes photo identification requirements for first time voters.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman