Resolution to Oppose the Minnesota Voter Photo Identification Amendment:

Whereas, in Minnesota, 200,000 residents do not have a valid state identification (ID). Requiring identification most significantly affects seniors, immigrants, military, low income communities, communities of color, transgender people, people experiencing homelessness, and most importantly to our purpose, students.

Whereas, despite the fact that this amendment states that photo IDs would be provided for every resident, residents must have other forms of ID in order to receive a “voting ID,” which costs money for those who do not currently have other forms of ID; placing a cost on voting.

Whereas, Augsburg students without a photo ID with their Augsburg address would have to show a billing statement in order to vote. Often, billing statements have the student’s parent’s address. Thus, students would have to change their ID address or they would have to vote in their parent’s home precinct. Additionally, same day registration would be complicated for students because of the aforementioned address provision.

Whereas, this amendment would have a significant effect on the voting system in Minnesota adding unaccounted cost to the state budget. Moreover, officials found that there was virtually no voter fraud in the recount from the past two gubernatorial elections indicating an unjustified need for this amendment.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the Augsburg College Day Student Government, oppose the Minnesota Voter Photo ID Amendment in representation of the Augsburg Day Student Body for the aforementioned reasons and in accordance with our mission: As informed citizens, Augsburg asks students to become educated about the issues in our community and take action on these issues. Informed citizens should vote and encourage others to vote as part of their civic duty; this right should not be taken away. As thoughtful stewards we are called to ensure the health of our political system and protect voter rights for future generations. As critical thinkers, we are asked to question how this amendment will impact Minnesota. As responsible leaders, we believe that everyone should have the right and ability to participate in the political process. In addition, as a college we uphold diversity, inclusivity, and community. Not only will this affect us as college students, it will affect our surrounding communities. Additionally, we encourage the rest of the Augsburg community to take a public stance on this issue and oppose the Voter ID Amendment.

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Special Thanks to,
Halima Abdulkarim,
Angela Bonfiglio,
Kim Club,
Anika Clark,
Sally Fifield,

Sawiya Hassan,
Helena Kruger,
Zaureen Nickens,
Matt Schirber,
Rachel Svaneo,
And Ben Yawakie