

Student Government Association
MTSU P.O. Box 1
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132
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February 22, 2022

Elections & Campaign Finance Subcommittee
Tennessee House of Representatives
19 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear subcommittee members,

The Middle Tennessee State University Student Government Association Executive is in full support of Tennessee HB 1869. Democracy is the backbone of our nation and we believe it is important to defend the rights of every American to vote. We believe that expanding voting opportunities provides an environment where democracy is celebrated and not suppressed.

A recent study conducted by The Institute for Democracy in Higher Education (IDHE) found that student voter registration rates in 2020 surpassed that of 2016 with an increase of 16 percent. This increase in voter registration amongst college students demonstrates the need for greater access to polls. College students are the future leaders of America and it is our responsibility to ensure they are able to take part in civic duties as soon as they are eligible.

Higher education institutions like MTSU have an obligation not only to educate and train our future workforce, but to also encourage active participation in our democracy. With this in mind, it is imperative that students have access to vote on campus.

The Student Government Association on behalf of the students of Middle Tennessee State University supports the implementation of three days of early voting on our campus, and implores our state representatives to vote in accordance with the wishes of their constituents.

In solidarity with the students of MTSU,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Winton Cooper".

Winton Cooper
Student Body President
Student Government Association, MTSU