

Testimony in OPPOSITION to
HB-5540 AAC CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE
HB-6325 AAC THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND
ELECTION AUDITS

March 24, 2021 Public Hearing

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Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

I am writing in opposition to **HB-5540 AAC CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE**
HB6325 AAC THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS.

I oppose **HB-5540** because it will replace centralized responsibility for elections with decentralized inefficient micromanagement of elections. This will undermine confidence in the election process and it will not allow the Secretary of the State the authority to react quickly as was done during the pandemic.

It is essential that administration of elections remains centralized so that one person is accountable and so that when emergencies like a pandemic occur, that person can act quickly.

I oppose **HB6325** because it is a voter suppression bill. Its intention is to make absentee ballots less accessible and more likely to be invalidated and does so without sufficient protections for voters.

Sincerely,

Gail Berritt
Westport, CT