



## Connecticut Republican Assembly

P.O. Box 1920 Meriden, CT 06450-1920

March 23, 2021

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6325: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS.** *To (1) require the Secretary of the State to report on certain election laws modified or suspended for any primary or election held in 2020 or 2021, (2) require any declaratory ruling, instruction, opinion or order of the Secretary to be adopted as a regulation and submitted to the Legislative Regulation Review Committee, (3) prohibit the unsolicited mailing of absentee ballots by certain election officials, (4) provide state-wide consistency regarding pre-election day processing of absentee ballots whenever authorized and prohibit registrars of voters from contacting voters for the purpose of curing unsigned absentee ballots, (5) require the Secretary to establish a pilot program from the verification of signatures on returned absentee ballot envelopes, (6) require that absentee ballot applications contain a statement regarding penalties for noncompliance with certain provisions, (7) establish a task force to study the feasibility of single-envelope returns of absentee ballots, (8) establish a working group to examine risk-limiting audits of election results, and (9) change the deadline by which minor parties need to file their rules with the Secretary prior to nominating candidates for office.*

Dear Chairmen and Members of the Governmental Administration and Elections Committee,

This testimony is in Support of HB 6325.

The US Constitution, Connecticut Constitution, as well as our Connecticut General Statutes provides certain rules for elections. However, we are learning that in the November 2020 election, certain laws were not followed in purging outdated voter roll information, i.e. individuals who no longer resided at a specific domicile, due to a move or death. Additionally, the Motor Voter Act of 1993, a Federal law, was to be incorporated throughout the United States and adhered to; it appears as though Connecticut may not have been in compliance with the Motor Voter Act as it would seem to be a valid account of a large population of Connecticut citizens, on their domicile as well as proof of life.

Each citizen in CT has the right to have their individual vote valid - one vote per one eligible elector to have valid elections

I agree with the proposed bill:

- 1) The Secretary of State should be required to report on certain elections laws modified or suspended for any election held in 2020 or 2021;
- 2) Require any declaratory ruling, instruction, opinion or order of the Secretary of State to be adopted as a regulation and submitted to the Legislature Regulation Review Committee;
- 3) Prohibit the unsolicited mailing of absentee ballots by certain election officials;
- 4) Provide state-wide consistency of pre-election day processing of absentee ballots;
- 5) Require SOTS to establish a pilot program from the verification of signatures on returned absentee ballot envelopes;
- 6) Require absentee ballot applications contain a statement regarding penalties for

- noncompliance with certain provisions;
- 7) Establish a task force to study the feasibility of single-envelope returns of absentee ballots;
  - 8) Establish a working group to examine risk-limiting audits of election results, and;
  - 9) Change the deadline by which minor parties need to file their rules with the SOTS prior to nominating candidates for office.

The legal absentee voting eligibility, pre COVID change, should have stood as ‘ *his or her illness* ’ could be a factor in choosing to vote by absentee ballot as seen in the law:

**Sec. 9-135. Absentee voting eligibility. Misrepresentation prohibited.** (a) Any elector eligible to vote at a primary or an election and any person eligible to vote at a referendum may vote by absentee ballot if he or she is unable to appear at his or her polling place during the hours of voting for any of the following reasons: (1) His or her active service with the armed forces of the United States; (2) his or her absence from the town of his or her voting residence during all of the hours of voting; (3) his or her illness; (4) his or her physical disability; (5) the tenets of his or her religion forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election or referendum; or (6) the required performance of his or her duties as a primary, election or referendum official, including as a town clerk or registrar of voters or as staff of the clerk or registrar, at a polling place other than his or her own during all of the hours of voting at such primary, election or referendum.

(b) No person shall misrepresent the eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, to any elector or prospective absentee ballot applicant.

Absentee voting procedures specifically created for ‘COVID’ may very well have violated our time-established, legally created CT Election laws, and we are only finding out now, months later; there needs to be a review of the process as noted in this bill.

Further, once this has all been reviewed, the legislature might possibly return to the original pre-COVID absentee ballot law for elections.

Each and every Connecticut citizen’s vote should be a valid one to protect one’s vote as well as the entirety of both state and Federal elections.

Sincerely,

Anne Manusky, President  
Connecticut Republican Assembly