

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

March 24, 2021

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** and **HB6325 AAC THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS.**

HB-5540 is a very bad idea. The Secretary of State needs to be able to react quickly and make decisions that will be consistent across the State. Decentralizing election decisions will result in inefficiencies and set up court challenges based on disparate treatment. And that will undermine confidence in the election process. Additionally, local determinations cannot be made with the same speed as the Secretary's office which has staff dedicated to addressing election issues.

There is also the issue of accountability. It is far better to have one set of standards and one person to hold accountable.

Finally, I oppose **HB6325** most strongly because, at bottom, it is a voter suppression bill. It is obvious by its language that the sponsors' intention is to discount absentee ballots by making them less accessible and more likely to be invalidated.

Sincerely,

Joanna Swomley
Greenwich, CT