

**To:** GAETestimony@cga.ct.gov

**Subject: Oppose HJ58 (NEAV) & HJ59 (EV) - public hearing date 2/22/21**

Testimony in **Opposition** to:

**HJ 58:** Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting

**HJ 59:** Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting

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,

**HJ 58:** Although I would like to make voting readily available to all registered voters, I am very concerned about the greater opportunity for fraud that arises with increased absentee mail-in voting as opposed to in-person voting, such as

- problems with voter roll updates such that ballots are sent to invalid voters,
- problems with signature verification,
- problems with curing invalid ballots,
- problems with ballot harvesting,
- problems with chain of custody, and
- problems with discriminating against opposition poll workers who observe counting of mail-in ballots.

These potentially partisan issues are not present with in person precinct voting and were at the root of irregularities raised by the opposition in other states. Therefore, in the event that you decide to expand absentee voting, it should be done only after (1) thoroughly outlining what restrictions and procedures would be in place to make sure that the above potential problems would be avoided and only valid votes are counted,

and (2) addressing the increase in cost necessitated in supervising the validity of such absentee ballots.

**HJ 59:** Early voting in other states varies from as much as 45 days prior to election day to the Friday before the election. I oppose early voting in CT, depending on the term, on two counts: (1) early voting favors the incumbent and makes it more costly for the challenger, and (2) an informed electorate should have the benefit of the latest information regarding the candidates, including their public statements and debates, so that the time period for early voting should be as short as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Alcyone

Westport, CT