

Hello, I reside in Greenwich and I am writing in support of these two bills to expand access to absentee voting and to enact early voting. After suffering some health problems over the past few years, I became eligible to vote via absentee ballot due to disability. I did so for the 2016 presidential election and the 2018 mid term election. And the process was so easy and so convenient, I wondered why such a process was not available to everyone. I suffer from a spinal disability which makes it very difficult for me to show up in person and stand in line etc...especially when there is only one specific day on which to vote which may be a "good" day or "bad" day for me in terms of pain. So absentee ballots for disabled people are important and fair. But I also know that able bodied people have busy lives and could benefit from a process that does not require them to show up on one specific day. And why not? There is nothing wrong with an absentee ballot system as long as the local Town clerks have the means to process the votes. Similarly, early voting is a process that takes place in many other states with much success.

I will never forget the primary election in 2018 in which I planned to vote in the afternoon after work. But after a long day at work, it was hard for me to walk or stand and I didn't have the will power to go to that elementary school down the street from me. I didn't vote in that election and I regretted it. After missing that primary election, I promised myself that I would from then on always request an absentee ballot for any election big or small, as I was permitted to do due to disability, in order to not risk not casting a vote. It is so important to voting rights to have both early voting and absentee ballot options for all people. Early voting and absentee voting will help those most in need - people who work long hours, hold responsibility for child or elder care needs, and those who may have missed out on voting in the past simply due to circumstance. As many people as possible should vote, as that is an important marker of a true democracy. Thank you for your time.

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