

February 22, 2021

Testimony to the Connecticut Government Administration and Elections Committee on H.J. No. 58 and H.J. No. 59 allowing No Excuse Absentee Voting and Early Voting.

Submitted by Benjamin S. Bilus, 370 South Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840

I am writing to support the passage of the bills proposing Constitutional amendments to allow No Excuse Absentee Voting and Early Voting. My wife and I voted early and by absentee ballot during the last national election, because we wanted to make sure our votes counted, given the Trump administration's attempt to incapacitate the USPS, and because we are seniors with health conditions that prevented us from voting in person during the pandemic. Even if there had been no pandemic, absentee balloting and early voting serve the best interests of the citizens of this State and should be adopted. The right to vote is the fundamental principle upon which our democratic government rests, and it is the first duty of the Connecticut government to expand the right and ability to vote to as many citizens as possible.

Republican lawmakers in a number of states continue to seek ways to suppress the vote, under false claims of election fraud. It is apparent to all that these are bald faced efforts to reduce the number of urban and minority voters; indeed, it is an attempt to keep all non-Republicans from voting, as one Republican operative admitted publicly. It is a violation of their sacred duty to preserve our democracy.

Connecticut needs and deserves no excuse absentee and early voting. There should be NO votes against these bills.

