

597 Westport Avenue
Apt. A215
Norwalk, CT 06851
February 17, 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,

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

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

Thank you for all you did this year to protect our right to vote. It is clear from the record high participation rate that absentee voting for all and the other steps taken to make voting convenient and safe were very important to voters in Connecticut. Nearly 35% of the population chose to vote by Absentee Ballot while those who wanted to vote in person were still able to do so. This is also supported by a recent CT public opinion poll conducted by Secure Democracy which showed widespread bi-partisan support for both Early Voting and Absentee Ballot Expansion.

I loved the ability to vote absentee during Covid-19 and the convenience of a ballot box outside Town Hall. I believe it's time for Connecticut to bring its voting procedures into the 21st century. I have a compromised immune system, and Covid will not be the last health threat as we face climate change. In addition, voting on a Tuesday in November presents frequent weather challenges. Many people cannot arrange their work

schedules to accommodate in-person voting. So I think CT legislators should let the voters decide if they want to make voting more convenient.

Please vote **YES** on **HJ 58** in **SUPPORT** of a **Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting** which would allow **all** registered voters to choose to **vote by absentee ballot** and in **SUPPORT** of **HJ 59 Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting** which would allow all registered voters to choose to **vote early**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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