

**Public Testimony concerning HJ No. 58**  
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Being a physician and a senior citizen, I watched in dismay and disbelief during the recent Presidential election as many states did all they could to keep people from requesting absentee ballots and voting by mail, forcing them to choose between exercising their right to vote and their right to be safe in the midst of a deadly pandemic. Thankfully, Connecticut was not one of those states. I was able to cast my ballot early and in safety and I'm thankful for that. But even if there is not a pandemic, I fully support a constitutional amendment that allows any voter for any reason to vote by absentee ballot as proposed by House Joint Resolution 58. I thought our democracy was built on a foundation of the people expressing their will by voting and that making it easier to vote encouraged participation in our democratic system and would be seen as a good thing. But apparently, not every member of this General Assembly wants to make it easier to vote. They will warn us about dead people requesting absentee ballots and widespread voter fraud. Are we now to be frightened by fairy-tales expressly designed to suppress voting? No, we should not. The recent election which allowed early and no-excuse absentee voting was the most participative and safest election in history and provided all the evidence we need to change our constitution for the better.