

**Testimony Before the Government Administration & Elections Committee**

**February 22, 2021**

**H.J.R. No. 58: Resolution Proposing An Amendment to the State Constitution**

**To Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting**

**H.J.R. No. 59: Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution**

**To Permit Early Voting**

**Elizabeth Brandt-Fairfield, CT**

Good morning Sen. Flexer, Rep. Fox & members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee.

My name is Elizabeth Brandt, & I'm a registered voter in Fairfield, CT.

**I strongly support both of these resolutions.**

As a senior citizen, concerned about her health, I was happy to participate by absentee vote in the recent election of November 3, 2020. Voting is very important to me. I have voted in every general election since I became a voter!

The easier it is to vote, the more CT residents will participate in our democracy. Many of our sister States have demonstrated for many years that absentee voting is safe & effective. Some States even conduct their elections totally by absentee ballot.

This is New England, & the weather in November can be challenging. Senior citizens, like myself, are afraid of falling in bad weather. Also, Fairfield, in normal times, is a commuter Town. Many of our residents work in New York City. For many years, they have struggled to get to the polls either before or after their ride to the City. There are other reasons to shift towards absentee voting. Every year, CT cities & towns find it more difficult to recruit poll workers. In-person elections require closing public schools on Election Day. In our fast-paced society, we face increasing demand for rapid election results. Both no-excuse absentee voting and early voting will contribute to quicker election results.

It is time that CT provide all of its citizens the options of no-excuse absentee voting and early voting. Thank you for listening to my testimony today.

