

Testimony in support of H.J. 58, H.J. 59, S.B. 901, H.B. 6464

Submitted via email GAETestimony@cga.ct.gov

Submitted by:
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Dear Sen. Flexer, Rep. Fox, and members of the **Government Administration and Elections Committee**, my name is Mary Breton, I live in Wethersfield, CT and **I support H.J. 58, H.J. 59, S.B. 901, H.B. 6464.**

Our vote is our voice. In democracy we must work to facilitate the voting process so that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote.

Before this last election and historically we've seen low voter turnout, but now we see that elections have consequences and people are once again fully engaged in our democracy and their right to vote. When more of our eligible voters are voting, we need to encourage, facilitate and make voting more accessible. More people voting is a sign of a vibrant and healthy democracy. It's what makes us the great country we are, we vote and are heard.

Our culture in America thrives on convenience. From our shopping and bill paying experiences to how we communicate with each other. Many states outside of ours have progressed to better voting access and convenience with early voting. For the pandemic we adjusted our voting process with the mail in ballot and it worked. Far more people were able to vote, voting rates went up across the country.

It would be wrong to bring the voting process backwards to what it was prior to COVID. It is not convenient to have just ONE day within the work week it is harder to get to the polls. Many of us juggle many things; jobs, caretaking and additional roles in our community (PTA, Coaches, etc.) or second jobs. A large majority of us also need to help our elderly relatives vote, with early voting and no-excuse absentee ballots we can have our seniors heard.

Absentee and early voting will allow eligible voters to cast their vote at a time convenient to them will avoid election day congestion, shortening lines and helps election officials monitor and fix errors.

We need to fully support and protect our most sacred right as citizens of this democracy and republic. There is no legitimate reason not to allow these changes to our voting process. We as Americans deserve the right to vote, it is our voice.

I urge you to support H.J. 58, H.J. 59, S.B. 901, H.B. 6464 so that the people of our state can access their American duty to exercise their right to vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you and please support these bills.

Mary Breton
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