

**Government Administration and Elections Committee
Monday, February 22**

House Joint Resolution No. 58 (HJ 58): Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting - Support

House Joint Resolution No. 59 (HJ 59) Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting - Support

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is William Buhler and I offer the testimony below in support of House Joint Resolution 58: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting and House Joint Resolution 59: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting.

There are many reasons to support bills which promote more participation in the voting process. As we sit here today in the midst of a raging pandemic and an extreme weather event covering half of the US one can appreciate the need to make sure voting remains safe and accessible.

Connecticut is one of only 7 states which do not allow voting before election day. With the temporary absentee ballot permission granted by Governor Lamont last year over half a million absentee ballots were cast with a rejection rate less than 1%. Total voter participation reached a 79.7%, an all time record high. *

Over two thirds of Republicans, Independents and Democrats want to be able to vote in person before election day and overall approval of no-excuse absentee ballot voting is almost as high. The bills supporting these amendments promote a high level of civic engagement and merit enthusiastic support.

I urge the members of the committee to support HJ 58 and HJ 59.

William Buhler
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*public opinion survey conducted by Secure Democracy