

Dear Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the GAE Committee

My name is Michael Carrington and I live in Southbury. I write in enthusiastic support of **No- Excuse Absentee Voting (HJ 58)** and **Early Voting (HJ 59)**. I want everyone who is eligible to be able to participate in our democracy safely and conveniently. Please vote for these bills to be sent to the House and Senate for full consideration and passage. Southbury would especially benefit from both bills primarily due to the high numbers of senior citizens who live here, many of whom do not own vehicles of their own and/or do not drive. Beyond seniors, Southbury is of course home to countless others who would benefit from additional voting options. Personally, my wife and I both enjoyed voting by absentee this year. As full-time working parents of children ages 4 and 2, absentee ballots were one less challenge to juggle. If given the option, we would greatly prefer to continue voting absentee at this stage of our lives. The myths that HJ 58 and HJ 59 will lead to widespread voter fraud are absurd and insulting. Our nation's history is littered with equally foolish arguments aimed at establishing barriers to voting rights and at the end of the day, we must not let our system be held captive by the ignorant and the unimaginative. Plenty of other states have already effectively implemented no-excuse absentee ballots and early voting measures with great success. Our state election system must follow suit and I have every confidence that Connecticut will maintain an orderly and effective voting system.

Sincerely,

Michael Carrington
Southbury, CT