

**Testimony before Government Administration and Elections Committee  
February 22, 2021**

**H.J. No. 58 (COMM) RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.**

**H.J. No. 59 (COMM) RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE  
STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING.**

**JOSEPH J CINTIA**

Senator Flexer, Rep Fox and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

My name is Joseph J Cintia and I am a registered Independent voter from Waterbury, Connecticut.

I support early and absentee voting for Connecticut. I voted absentee last November due to Covid-19 and believe it should be an option in the future, even if the Covid-19 Virus Crisis is over.

Many people do not vote and it's a travesty. We should have a complete tally of the population every election. The people who do not vote have many excuses, but the most common one is they do not have the time to do it due to their busy schedules. This issue could be settled by having early and absentee ballots for these people who otherwise may not vote.

Our society has too many apathetic voters who do not take a direct interest in the outcomes of our elections. Our republic cannot afford to disenfranchise the major portion of our electorate by making it difficult for them to vote. Whereas I oppose letting non-citizens vote, I support extending the franchise to all eligible voters by making it easier for them to vote.

Please pass these bills, so that people can no longer use their busy schedules as an excuse not to practice their right to vote. We must try to engage the whole population in society. Having people drop out and not engage risks the very fabric of our republic. We cannot omit people from this valuable and worthy task of picking their representatives in government. We must add as many citizens as possible to this exercise of the peoples' power to affect change and engage in the body politic.

We cannot allow ourselves to be lax and complacent about the large percentage that does not engage in this exercise of choosing government representation. It weakens us all when some decide not to be a part of our society in any important way. Please make it easier for people to take part in this important task of representative governance. It will make them better citizens and residents of our community.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.

Sincerely, Joseph J Cintia