

Esteemed members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Kate Conetta, and I am a resident of Danbury. I'm writing today in support of two bills – HJ58 for Absentee Voting and HJ59 for Early Voting.

At a time when public mistrust of government is substantial, and the struggles of average citizens are greater than ever, we need people to invest in their government again. The last election cycle turned out record numbers of voters, and in the interest of maintaining that level of participation, we need to put laws in place which will permanently increase the access which made this possible.

The pandemic has allowed us to begin taking the necessary steps: installing ballot drop boxes, establishing protocols for large volume absentee ballots at the state and municipal levels, and building public awareness about the absentee ballot process. All of this has been conducted with strong efficiency and secure results; this system works, and we can point to the most recent election cycle as evidence.

We now have a straightforward opportunity to convert these temporary measures to permanent ones, and to expand voting access in ways that encourage more citizens to participate. I urge you to support these two bills and strengthen the rights of all voters in CT.

Sincerely,

Kate Conetta
Danbury, CT