

**Testimony in SUPPORT of:**

**HJ 58: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting**

**HJ 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting**

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

Every election cycle I see voters in other states enacting their right to vote by participating in Early Voting or some form of vote by mail. It always makes me think twice about why the voters here in Connecticut don't enjoy the same rights. This past year, my husband and I voted absentee for the first time ever. We dropped off our ballots at a secure drop box outside of our town hall. It was easy, convenient and safe. For the first time in many elections my husband didn't have to figure out whether he could get to the polls before or after his long workday. I have always thought of Connecticut as a progressive state, however, when it comes to ease of voting it is clear that we are actually regressive. We have some of the most limited and restricted voting laws in the country. It is time to take Connecticut out of the dark ages. It is time to make voting easier and more convenient in Connecticut. The more people who participate in voting the more representative our officeholders will be. This would only strengthen our democracy.

Please make voting easy, convenient and accessible for ALL CT voters by voting:

- YES in **SUPPORT** of bill **HJ 58** for a **Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting**
- YES in **SUPPORT** of bill number **HJ 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting.**

Connecticut residents deserve the right to vote on these issues in the next general election.

Sincerely,

Susan David  
Ridgefield  
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