

To Whom it may Concern:

I grew up here in CT and returned in 2014 to help my aging mom stay in her home here in New Canaan. Mom has been able to vote absentee for some time due to her limited mobility at 97. However it was a godsend last year when I was able to vote absentee as well due to the pandemic. I was hoping to vote in person but kept my ballot ready just in case; as it turned out, covid had an upturn and I decided to vote absentee within the last few days of Election Day. It was wonderful to have this option. Ballot boxes were a game changer too, given all the challenges we had with our USPS.

As someone who believes strongly in enfranchising our citizens, doing everything we can to make it possible for everyone to vote - essential workers who cannot get time off to vote or who might not be able to get to the polls easily, parents of small children - who suddenly get sick on Election Day and thus make it impossible for Mom or Dad to vote in person - there are a million reasons why no excuse absentee voting makes a lot of sense and ensures that every Connecticut citizen who wants to vote, can vote. This past election showed that we can do it here, in the Nutmeg state, without fraud or chaos. We are a great progressive state in so many ways - it's time to correct this long-standing error.

Our state is one of only 16 that does not allow for no excuse absentee ballots or early voting. We must extend these rights to our citizens to increase voter participation in our State by making it easier to vote. Therefore, I support bills H.J. 58 and H. J. 59 and urge their approval by the legislature. I am also strongly in support of extending voter protections through S.B. 901 and H.B. 6464.

Many thanks for your consideration.

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