

Statement in **SUPPORT** of H.J. 58, *A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.*

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIONS AND ELECTIONS (GAE) COMMITTEE  
February 22, 2021

This statement represents my own personal views.

Note: My rationale in support of this bill is similar to my support of the companion resolution and bills:

H.J. 59  
S.B. 901  
H.B. 6464

I ask you to support all resolutions and bills that lift restrictions on our right to vote early or to vote by absentee ballot for any reason. I want to be able to choose how to vote— whether by in-person early voting, absentee voting or election day voting.

I am retired, but I know it is really hard for some people to vote in-person on election day because of their work or child care schedules. Many states already allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting and in-person Early Voting, and I see no reason why Connecticut wouldn't as well. We pride ourselves as being a leader among states in our governance, but we are behind in this.

We saw how well Absentee Balloting went in towns and cities, like Stamford, where there were plenty of drop-boxes. I was one of the volunteers in Stamford who helped the Town Clerk process the Absentee Ballot requests, so I know how careful the process is.

The combination of Early Voting and no-excuse Absentee Ballots minimizes the gathering of people on Election Day itself— something that would be critical in any year with a deadly virus like Covid-19, but would also be helpful during the flu season, which happens every year! Why endanger peoples' health unnecessarily by forcing them to come together in large lines to vote?

For public health reasons and in respect of peoples' work and child-care schedules, please support H.J. 58, the resolution proposing a State constitutional amendment to allow no-excuse absentee voting.

Thank you.

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