

To: Chairwoman Flexer, Vice Chair and Committee Members of the GAE Committee.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HJ 58 to allow for no-excuse absentee ballots.

I have lived in CT since 1974 and strongly support HJ 58, a "Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment To Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting".

The opportunity to vote absentee without excuse in 2020 allowed me to easily cast my vote. As a retired citizen, not having my ability to vote restricted to 14 hours on a single day simplified the voting process for me as well as hundreds of thousands of my fellow citizens in CT.

In fact, the popularity of voting absentee was incredible as witnessed by the fact that over five times as many votes were cast absentee in 2020 than in 2016, and voter participation statewide reached nearly 80%! Not only does this bode well for voter participation in future Presidential elections, but also for local and state elections where voter participation is significantly less, often at rates as low as 30%, per the CT Secretary of State

A true democracy represents the will of the majority. I can't imagine any elected official not wanting to be elected

by a true majority of their constituents, thereby reflecting the true will of the majority of the people they represent.

It's time for CT to make voting access easier like the vast majority of states across the US.

I urge all of you to consider your constituents' wishes and vote in favor of HJ 58.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Tom Fuchs

Stratford