

2/17/21

Subject: Testimony for 2/22/21 public hearing NOT IN SUPPORT of bill HJ-58 for Expanded Access to Absentee Ballots and NOT IN SUPPORT of HJ-59 for Early Voting.

To whom it may concern,

I am against both HJ-58 for expanded access to absentee ballots as well as HJ-59 for early voting for the simple reason that it facilitates and expands the potential for fraud involving ballot harvesting. If an individual will be out of town, or due to physical infirmity or illness is not able to travel to the polls, then yes, those citizens should be allowed to vote by absentee ballot. Other than that, they should come to their polling station and cast their vote in person.

Allowing mail in early voting is known to expand opportunities for voter fraud and has been banned in most European countries for that specific reason. In addition, encouraging early voting deprives an individual of considering recent news in making their voting decision. Much can happen leading up to election day. And while there may be mechanisms in place to change an early vote, they are cumbersome and only add to the administrative workload of registrars of voters.

In hindsight, the pre-pandemic regulations governing early voting and absentee ballots should never have been tossed aside. If people can go to big box stores, supermarkets, and restaurants, they can go to their polling stations while exercising the same precautions of social distancing and mask wearing.

Respectfully,

Jack Gorfien

Guilford, Connecticut