

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, ranking members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco and distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I support HJ58 and HJ59, the resolutions proposing constitutional amendments to allow no-excuse absentee and early voting in Connecticut.

These bills will encourage more Connecticut citizens to vote, thereby making a more robust government that reflects citizen energy and interests. For the sake of a government of, by, and for the people, we should do all we can to make voting easier.

Last November I voted through the no-excuse absentee voting process. It was straightforward, simple, and – bonus! – I could check online to see that my ballot was received. Statewide, one-third of all ballots cast were absentee. Expanded access to absentee voting led to record-breaking voter participation rates across the state. Polls show that both EV and NEAV enjoy overwhelming public support from Connecticut voters, regardless of party affiliation.

Ease of voting is crucial. But so is having a meaningful vote. Winning candidates should better reflect the will of the majority. **That's what Ranked Choice Voting offers, and it's why I'm also asking you to vote HB-5884, the Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Ranked Choice Voting, out of your committee.** The respected and non-partisan American Academy of Arts and Sciences recommended RCV in its report, Reinventing Democracy for the 21st Century. Leading conservative voices like Norm Ornstein and the late Senator John McCain have endorsed Ranked Choice Voting.

Thank you for considering these important voting and election reforms.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hambrick
South Windsor, CT