



TESTIMONY OF
WINSTON HEIMER, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS
BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 22, 2021

IN SUPPORT OF HJR 58 A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING AND SUPORT OF HJR 59 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING

Senator Flexer, Senator Sampson, Representative Fox, Representative Mastrofrancesco and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present this testimony. My name is Winston Heimer. I am Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans.

I write on behalf of the 50,000 members of the CT Alliance for Retired Americans. Each year we determine those legislative issues which are of most importance to our members. This year the issue of easy access for voting is one that nears the top of the list.

I'm sure you have heard all of the facts and figures underscoring the popularity of early and no excuse absentee voting as experienced by a majority of Connecticut citizens during the current epidemic.

Our members are naturally more susceptible to viruses so it's not surprising that they overwhelmingly chose to vote mostly by no-fault absentee. Some did, however, take advantage of early voting and the convenience of dropping their ballots in the drop-off boxes. Either way has become extremely popular and we urge that they continue to be available beyond Covid times.

As you know, Connecticut has some of the most restrictive voting procedures in the country. Five states and one US territory have only all mail-in voting. Our neighboring New England states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine all have some form of early voting.

In all, in-person early voting (including states with all-mail elections) is offered to voters in 43 states and the District of Columbia.

If we are to arrive in the 21st century and join the majority of states, we must disengage from the shackles that bind us to our state Constitution. It's well past time to start the process of amending our state Constitution to allow for early voting and no-excuse absentee voting.

