

To: GAEtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: **SUPPORT** HJ 58 (NEAV) + HJ 59 (EV) — public hearing date 02.22.21

Date: 02.18.21

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of:

HJ 58: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting
HJ 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas,
and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Pamela Hovland and I'm a 30 year resident of Wilton Connecticut.

It is time for Connecticut to move from being one of the most restrictive states in the country related to voting access to becoming a state that makes sure that every voter can participate without unnecessary barriers.

I'm writing with enthusiastic support of No-Excuse Absentee Voting and Early Voting. In my research, I was shocked to learn that Connecticut lags behind most of the nation on both of these issues. We are overdue for adopting these common sense reforms for our voters.

Access to voting should not be politicized. According to Common Cause, 73% of Connecticut voters support giving all voters the option to vote by absentee ballot without needing an excuse. With such widespread support — from all parties and ages — we must make these progressive changes.

Please make voting easy, convenient and accessible for ALL Connecticut voters by voting YES in **SUPPORT** of bill HJ 58 for a Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting and in **SUPPORT** of bill number HJ 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting.

One final note: As a designer and design educator, I am shocked at how confusing and overly complicated the visual presentation of the Connecticut ballots are. Perhaps our state can be a leader in this regard and create thoughtful and clear ballots for our voters.

Thanks for all you do to improve our quality of life in this state.

Sincerely,
Pamela Hovland
Wilton CT
203.451.2266