

Testimony before Government Administrations and Elections Committee

February 22, 2021

H.J. No. 58 (COMM) RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

***H.J. No. 59 (COMM) RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING.**

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Haskell, Representative Thomas and distinguished members of the Government Administrations and Elections Committee. My name is Danielle Hubley and I am a registered voter in Hartford, Connecticut. I am submitting written testimony regarding support for:

1. H.J. No. 58 (COMM) RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

I encourage you the Committee to pass the proposal to give the state the opportunity to vote in the 2022 statewide election on allowing no-excuse absentee voting. Not only did the 2020 General Election during the pandemic show us that CT can conduct safe, secure absentee ballot procedures for our elections, it is also known that [73% of Connecticut voters support giving all voters the option to vote by absentee ballot without an excuse.](#)

2. *H.J. No. 59 (COMM) RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING.

I also implore the Committee to pass the proposal to approve amending the State Constitution to allow for early voting. [In the 2020 General Election, more than 650,000 voters voted by absentee ballot,](#) and [nearly 80% of CT voters support allowing early voting.](#)

As a policy analyst working to prevent and end homelessness in the state of CT and in my role with the Keep the Promise Coalition, I know how important it is that every resident have the opportunity and power to cast their vote. I also know how hard and inaccessible voting can be for people who are facing homelessness/housing insecurity or are living with a mental, behavioral, or physical health diagnosis that may limit their mobility or civic engagement.

Getting to your polling center on time becomes nearly impossible when you are living in a shelter, or need to work multiple jobs to afford housing, food, childcare, etc. Voting on election day can be a challenge as well when you cannot physically get to your polling site or don't have transportation/other necessary accommodations to cast your ballot. Allowing people the opportunity to vote early or via absentee ballot will mean that more of Connecticut's residents will have a say in who represents them and the decisions that get made within their communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these important legislative opportunities to help strengthen our democracy and ensure our government is by and for the people.

Sincerely,

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