

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a resident of Old Lyme, Connecticut, **I am writing in support of Bills HJ58 and HJ59**, to establish no-excuses absentee voting and early voting in our state.

Precautions taken in light of social distancing to avoid and prevent spread of COVID-19 during the general election of 2020 resulted in increased voting accessibility for minority voters, voters with disabilities, those in rural communities, and more. Fully enfranchising all voters in our state would lead to more fair and representative government.

Limiting voting to same-day, in-person only, or restricting absentee voting to specific conditions places an unfair burden on many CT citizens due to working hours, transportation, childcare and supervision requirements, and polling place access.

It is vitally important that this most basic of citizens' rights -- the right to vote for government representation -- be extended and preserved for ALL citizens, regardless of ability to access polling places on a specific day and particular time and location.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony in SUPPORT of no-excuses absentee voting and early voting in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

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