



February 22, 2021

Written Testimony of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

Before the Government Affairs & Elections Committee concerning House Joint Resolution 58, A Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

Dear Members of the Government Affairs & Elections Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish community of Greater Hartford, the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford goes on record in support of a state constitutional amendment to allow no-excuse absentee voting.

The Jewish Community Relations Council educates and galvanizes the Jewish community on issues of social justice, combats hate, and advocates for public policy consistent with Jewish values. One of the core tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. In that vein, our legislative priorities focus on issues such as feeding the hungry, enhancing education, promoting civic engagement, and fostering economic growth.

One of our policy priorities this year is to support a Constitutional amendment to expand options for voting, such as no-excuse absentee voting. Connecticut still has some of the most restrictive laws concerning access to voting. No-excuse absentee ballots makes voting more accessible to all, encouraging civic engagement and maximizing voter participation. Thank you for your consideration. You are welcome to contact us with any questions by contacting Alana Butler, Director of JCRC, at abutler@jewishhartford.org or 860-727-6152.

SINCERELY,

STEVE RABB, CHAIR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

DEB POLUN, CHAIR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TASK FORCE, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

ALANA BUTLER, DIRECTOR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

