

Please accept this testimony in support of two House Joint Resolutions, No. 58 (HJ 58): a “Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting”, and No. 59 (HJ 59): a “Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting”. I am an able-bodied senior citizen, retired, and a resident of Cheshire, CT for forty-five years. I have voted in every federal, state and local election for my adult life. I voted this past November by absentee ballot and this was the first time I did not stand in line. It was a blessing. This was made possible by statewide emergency orders put in place in response to the viral pandemic, orders that I was grateful for. My age and underlying health issues just might have prevented me from voting at all this past election if not for access to an absentee ballot. I know there are many, many citizens with physical impairments who are extremely challenged by our state’s otherwise restrictive voting practices and cannot get to polls under normal circumstances, regardless of a public health crisis. And there are certainly many more for whom a twelve or fourteen-hour window for voting in their home neighborhood is also extremely challenging for various reasons.

This past November I volunteered to help my town process absentee ballots, expecting a big surge in that type, and we were not disappointed. The surge was in the range of 600% to 700% above normal levels. The overall number of mistakes made by electors voting this way was practically nil, compared to the volume processed. Even those could have

been addressed fairly with an early-voting opportunity for “ballot curing.” I believe this past election also revealed record voter turnout across the nation. People are engaged and they want to vote, fairly and efficiently. Connecticut could be a more welcoming and engaging place to live, with adoption of these resolutions. I understand that early voting can add cost to the election process. I, for one, would be willing to provide a little more tax revenue to the state for diversion to municipalities to help defray such costs. It could be a check-box on the state income tax form, to designate a dollar or two to support an “Election Fund”, similar to the question on federal tax forms. I am willing to pay something for these privileges. Please work toward making the subject of these resolutions a reality, sooner rather than later. Thank you.

Harold Jordan
72 Broadview Rd
Cheshire
13th Senate District
89th House District