

Testimony for 2/22/21 public hearing in SUPPORT of bill HJ 58 for Absentee Voting and HJ 59 for Early Voting

I am a longtime pollworker, and I have had to listen to far too much insulting, ignorant, and paranoid nonsense about voting systems across the country over the last year. The experience has only increased my resolve to help safeguard our citizens' right to vote by being part of making the system run smoothly and in full compliance with the law. I see absolutely no reason why no-excuse absentee voting and early voting should not be made the law in Connecticut. Frankly, although the current provisions for voting may have seemed like protections at the time they were passed, the changes in our population and our society since those days have turned them into actual barriers for far too many people.

Further, I say that if the General Assembly cannot bring itself to pass these laws *and to provide the additional funding that our municipalities will need to implement them*, then that would show that it does not really care about making it possible for every eligible voter to actually vote. In this dangerous era, it is an ethical and moral imperative for Connecticut to stand up and show the entire country what it looks like to be fully committed to democratic processes and to our citizens' civil rights.

Sincerely,

Kristen Noble Keegan, Ph.D.
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