

Dear Senators and Members of the GAE Committee:

My husband (Gene G. Kelkres) and I (Eileen Kelkres) from Southbury, CT are writing to support No Excuse Absentee Voting (HJ 58) and Early Voting (HJ 59). Please vote for these bills to be sent to the House and Senate for full consideration and passage.

Voting in CT as it is now is difficult or impossible for many groups of people: the disabled, those with chronic illness, those who have daily responsibilities caring for children or the elderly, shift workers and those who don't have transportation and the elderly themselves. An obvious point but it has to be made to many people who never seem to notice it but these limitations disadvantage women disproportionately. Extending days and making absentee ballots excuse free would expand voting which should be the goal. The 2020 election and the use of absentee ballots for the first time for many people showed that it can work. Many states like Colorado have been using these methods for years.