

## Written Testimony

### Support of HJ 58

#### **RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.**

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Rhea Klein, Ph.D., learning specialist, who has resided in Connecticut for more than 60 years and have no intention of leaving the state that I love.

I am submitting this testimony in support of HJ 58, the bill to have Connecticut amend its constitution to institute early voting.

I'm a concerned Connecticut voter who strongly supports this amendment because I believe that the opportunities for Connecticut voters to cast their ballots should be increased through this measure. Furthermore, most of my friends and associates representing all political views agree with this stance that was born out of the successful opportunity to use this process during the 2020 election. In actuality, five states—Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington—allow all elections to be conducted by mail, and 35 states including Connecticut automatically sent applications due to the pandemic this year.

Opponents are most worried that there will be voter fraud. However, evidence that voter fraud in any significant way due to early voting is nonexistent. While some continue to promote this conspiracy theory, it has been disproved by careful inspection and failed legal lawsuits. Let there be no know doubt, I am contending that anyone who promotes this lie should have no standing as the matter of the existence or nonexistence is not a matter of opinion such as tolls or no tolls.

The concern regarding additional costs has been address by the Secretary of State, Denise Merrill. She reports that any additional costs incurred will be made up with corresponding decreases on election day.

On a personal note, I have a disabled brother who resides in the Boston area. He has had health issues that require me to stay with him for days at a time. I would certainly choose the option of a no excuse absentee ballot in the case that I was needed on election day to support my brother. If this option isn't available, I might loose my opportunity to vote.

In conclusion, as a life long resident of Connecticut, I strongly urge the legislature to amend the State of Connecticut

Respectfully,

Rhea Klein, Ph.D.  
Bolton, CT

CC: GAE Committee  
Senators Mark Looney, Bob Duff, Kevin Kelly,  
Speaker Mark Ritter  
Representative Jason Rojas  
Representative Vincent Candelora