

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

I write this letter in support of HJ58 and HJ59 to allow early voting and no-excuse absentee ballot voting in Connecticut.

I do not write this to benefit myself, Leslie Korngold, a 73-year-old, diabetic resident of Stamford, CT, but to honor and recognize the many people who forego their opportunity to vote to stay at their post due to an emergency, stay by a bedside because a patient suddenly takes a turn for the worse, not leave a critically ill family member alone, not abandon a student at risk of failing or going home hungry...the list of unplanned obstacles to getting to the polls on time one day a year are significant for many we rely on to always be there for us.

There are also the other essential workers we take for granted; the people who take a bus for hours each way to get to an hourly job, whose right to vote they pay for by losing hours of wages they can ill afford to give up. Supper that night or vote is an unacceptable choice to have to make in our democratic Republic.

There are many who have whispered that with greater opportunity to vote, Republicans will never win another election. IDEAS, GOOD POLICIES and GOOD PEOPLE to carry them out win elections, not who or how many get to vote. I have voted for different party candidates over the years because of the quality of their ideas and the quality of their leadership to maintain a united country, to remedy its ills without division. Have they all been perfect, of course not. But we must always strive to do better to keep our form of government.

Let us be united with the 34 states and the District of Columbia that allow no-excuse absentee voting and the 43 and the District of Columbia that allow early voting.

Let's not be afraid to hear our freedom ring.

I greatly appreciated my opportunity to not endanger myself or poll workers by being able to vote by no-excuse absentee ballot this year.

Respectfully,

Leslie Korngold

68 Frost Pond Road, Stamford, CT, 06903