

Written Testimony on Bills H.J. No. 58 and H.J. No. 59

Submitted by:

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Feedback Bill H.J. No. 58

I believe that our voting system should require the electorate to vote in person on election day and only make exceptions for people who cannot physically go to the polls on that day. Absentee voting should be reserved for situations such as for military service members who are stationed abroad and would have no possible way to vote in person at a U.S. voting location. Allowing no-excuse absentee voting opens up the voting process to possible corruption and cheating. It also cheapens the entire process. People should be proud to make the commitment and appreciate the privilege they have as an American to go to their voting location on election day and cast their ballot. The voting locations we have in CT are convenient and open long enough to allow anyone who wants to cast a ballot to do so. I see people sometimes make the argument that they cannot vote because they have to work that day. Most people are not working for the entire block of hours that their voting locations are open. In addition, in a rare case that a person is working for that entire amount of time, I am sure their employer would make an exception to allow the person to take time off to cast a ballot.

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Allowing early voting is something that should not be allowed. Election day is one day. It is a day that is supposed to get at how everyone feels politically on that one day and who they feel the best candidates are on that one day. Events can change and people's minds can change as election day nears. By allowing early voting you are getting snapshots at various points of times of how the electorate feels. Scandals and events can happen leading up to election day that can change the minds of voters but the votes will not be able to be changed so early voting can create voter regret. Also, I believe early voting opens up the system to more possibilities of foul play and cheating. For those who have a legitimate reason they cannot vote on election day they should apply for an absentee ballot. I do not see any benefit to early voting and I see many drawbacks.