

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
General Administration and Elections Committee**

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

By

Julio A. Leon, Student

UConn School of Social Work

**H.J. No. 58- RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NOEXCUSE  
ABSENTEE VOTING.**

Chair Flexer, Chair Fox, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee in support of resolution H.J. No. 58. My name is Julio Leon, and I am a current student at the UConn School of Social Work. I am also a resident of Hartford.

As we know we have been in a constant warfare not against flesh or blood but against the forces that continue to attack our democracy and the sacred act of voting through various tactics but one of them being voter suppression.

This previous general election season Connecticut had an 80% voter turnout, and this was all possible because of absentee ballots. In addition to this statistic 73% of Connecticut voters support the act of giving voters an absentee ballot to be able to vote with no excuse according to *Common Cause Connecticut*.

One of the memories that I hold dear to this experience was being able to help my Puerto Rican grandfather who does not know English and who did not graduate primary school. It was a joy to be able to help my grandfather fulfill his duties as a citizen because of the absentee ballot. These recent elections I was able to say that 90% of my household was able to vote with no obstacles along the way.

This is a bold move, but a move that will use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to empower and protect marginalized communities for example the elderly, and people with physical disabilities who might not be able to get to the polls on election day. This will protect mothers who might not be able to vote on election day because of their job schedules.

This is a matter of equity and removing one of the obstacles that prevent many for exercising the right to vote. So, I urge you to join this movement of guardians of democracy and the other 34 states who have no excuse absentee voting.

Thank you for your time, and I urge the committee to pass H.J. No. 58

Sincerely,

Julio A Leon