

YES to Bill H. J. No. 58, “Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting”

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Election Committee:

I write in support of H. J. No. 58, “Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how vital it is that voters be able to cast their ballots in an election without having to appear physically in a specific location on a specific day. That in the 2020 General Election, Connecticut voters were able to vote by absentee ballot surely prevented some from contracting—and dying from—COVID-19, which is dramatically more deadly than the flu.

For me personally, the ability to vote by absentee ballot on November 3, 2020, was essential. No, I was not in the hospital, out of the state or otherwise eligible to do so by the conditions that currently make it legal to request and submit an absentee ballot. Rather, my right foot was in a cast. Given turnout for the 2020 General Election, I might well have needed to wait hours in line (possibly outdoors in the cold), balanced on crutches or sitting in a lawn chair that I’d have had to move every few moments as the line advanced into the polling location.

Thanks to the emergency measures taken—and so well executed by election officials in my hometown of Ridgefield and throughout Connecticut—I was able to vote securely and conveniently without jeopardizing my recovery from foot surgery or falling seriously ill from COVID-19.

Please vote to bring this bill to the full legislature for consideration and support its passage there. Doing so will enable Connecticut voters to decide through referendum, at the earliest possible opportunity, whether they want the convenient and secure absentee voting process we experienced in 2020 to become a permanent option for everyone in our state.

Angela Liptack
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