

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,

My name is Janet McMahon and I live in Cos Cob and I am writing to you in support of HJ58 and HJ59 to allow early voting and no-excuse absentee ballot voting in Connecticut.

In the United States, 43 states and the District of Columbia offer early in-person voting as an option because the vast majority of voters want and need more than one day on which they can vote. There have been many times that I barely made it to the polls on time to vote, and, sadly a few times which I missed the voting window. Early voting is essential to our democracy!

As for No Excuse Absentee Voting, Nutmeggers already participated in a form of it this year, due to the global pandemic. I personally voted in both the primary and the general election using absentee voting and was very grateful for it, as my child and I found ourselves in quarantine on Election Day! It was widely successful and popular this past year and we need to continue to offer this option for all who seek it.

Voting is a right, not a privilege. We need to make it easier to vote in Connecticut, not harder. Please support HJ58 and HJ59 this year.

Thank you,

**Janet McMahon
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