

**YES TO Bill H.J. No. 58**, “No Excuse Absentee Voting” (NEAV), and **YES TO H.J. No. 59**, “Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting.”

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Election Committee:

I write to you in support of passage of both of the above-noted bills, with my strongest urging that both be adopted.

Prior to the very difficult year of 2020, and all the restrictions imposed on travel and public gatherings, my husband and I had both frequently used the opportunity to vote *in absentia*, due to either confirmed future travel, or plans to travel on Election Day. Occasionally, our plans to be out of State on Election Day were thwarted by unforeseen circumstances, and we were glad to know that our votes would be counted, nevertheless.

We have both been diligent and responsible Connecticut voters for at least forty years – in both local and national elections – and hope to continue to be so in the future. Although we have always enjoyed our “outings” to vote in person, the pandemic, and our increasing ages, have made it clear that the privilege and responsibility of voting in a democracy should never be limited by the necessity to vote in person, on a specific day, for any reason.

Nor have we ever had any concern about our legitimate ballots being correctly counted, whether absentee, or cast in person. In fact, the security precautions for mail-in voting seem to be exactly the same, with or without an acceptable “excuse.”

In sum, once the ballots are prepared, and all candidates and issues determined, I can see no reason why both “early” and “absentee” voting should not be perfectly acceptable, and legitimate. They certainly are, already, to the two registered voters at this address.

Finally, many other States have successfully and comfortably employed both these practices for years, with no discernible evidence of any significant “fraud” of any sort – despite the most fervent recent efforts, from some aggrieved quarters, to find even a shred of it in the recent elections.

Therefore, I urge you to pass both these bills.

Carol Nicklaus  
Danbury, CT