

To: Chairwoman Flexer, Vice Chair and Committee Members of the GAE Committee.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HJ 58 to allow for no-excuse absentee ballots.

I have lived in CT since 1977 and strongly support HJ 58, a Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment To Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

I found the opportunity to vote absentee without excuse in 2020, extremely helpful in casting my vote. As a retired citizen, not having my ability to vote restricted to 14 hours on one day, simplified the voting process for me as well as hundreds of thousands of citizens in CT.

The popularity of voting absentee was incredible as witnessed by the fact that over five times as many votes were cast absentee in 2020 than in 2016. Voter participation statewide reached nearly 80%! Not only does this bode well for voter participation in future Presidential elections, but also for local and state elections where voter participation is significantly less, often at rates as low as 30%, per the CT Secretary of State

A true democracy represents the will of the majority. I would think that any elected official would want to be elected by a true majority of their constituents, thereby reflecting the true will of the majority of the people they represent.

It's time for Connecticut to make voting access easier just like the vast majority of states across the US.

I urge you to consider your constituents' wishes and vote in favor of HJ 58.

*Thank you,
Beverly Propen, Orange, CT.*