

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

HJ 58: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting

HJ 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

Please make voting easy, convenient and accessible for ALL CT voters by voting YES in SUPPORT of bill HJ 58 for a **Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting** and in SUPPORT of bill number HJ 59: **Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting.**

As a voter who chose to vote by absentee ballot in the 2020 election, I loved the safety and convenience of no excuse absentee voting. So did roughly 36% of the other 1.85 million CT voters that turned out in 2020. We should be celebrating the fact that voter turnout was a record 80%. There is no doubt that no excuse absentee voting made that result possible. Furthermore, the process was safe and secure, despite a national campaign of lies about election fraud and mail in voting by the former president.

It's time for CT to reject its place in the category of six states (NH, SC, KY, MS, MO) that make voting, and thereby, participation in our democracy difficult. Frankly, it's embarrassing and at worst, discriminates against working and disabled people. A recent report by the Brennan Center for Justice highlighted efforts made by state legislatures in 2021 to make voting more challenging. I am alarmed by this development and you should be too. I call upon you to ask yourself how you can justify opposing these bills. Voters should be able to decide if they want to make voting more convenient for all CT registered voters. To do otherwise, is to send the message that CT legislators don't want to hear from the people they represent. Please vote in support of HJ 58 and HJ 59.

Sincerely,

Linda Pryde
Westport, CT
prydect@aol.com