

2/19/21

To: Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Mae Flexer and House Representative Daniel J. Fox and Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee

SUBJECT MATTER: Government Administration and Elections Bills.

H.J. No. 58 (COMM) RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

H.J. No. 59 (COMM) RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING.

S.B. No. 901 (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING TO JUNE 30, 2021, CHANGES IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19.

H.B. No. 6464 (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING TO MAY 31, 2021, SEVERAL CHANGES IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19.

In 29 states and Washington, D.C., any voter can request a mail-in ballot without providing an excuse. Five states successfully conduct elections entirely by mail (Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington).

38 states and D.C. allow for in-person early voting in some form. Only 7 states, including Connecticut, do not allow early voting.

The coronavirus pandemic has made it abundantly clear that voting reform in Connecticut is long overdue. As the past presidential election has proven, state and local officials in Connecticut and across the country go to great lengths to ensure secure and legitimate elections. This won't change with the inclusion of in-person early voting, and we have evidence of success from prior elections in states already utilizing no-excuse, mail-in voting and early voting. Our democracy only works when all the people's voices are heard, and it is essential to give people every possible avenue to exercise their rights.

I fully support all 4 proposed bills listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,

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