

My name is Carol Rizzolo, I retired from a 25 yr career as a Primary Care Physician Assistant with a specialization in General Pediatrics and Asthma. I am testifying in support of HJ58 (NEAV) & HJ59 (EV) ballot resolutions.

there are many reasons why voters might not be able to come in on one day of the year and I'd like to give you some examples from my own life.

For 25 years I worked in clinical office pediatrics. We regularly accommodated urgent care visits. Most of my patients lived in neighborhoods in CT where access to public transportation was problematic, few had reliable cars of their own and the timing of medical cabs was unreliable. My patients tended to live in lower income communities of color. As you can imagine, clinical pediatrics included children who had woken up in the night screaming in pain, or struggling to breathe. or any of the myriad urgent issues that bring one into an acute care office. Imagine yourself in this situation. Stressed and frightened for your child. It is the moment that all parents fear, the moment when their child is acutely ill.

Now have that be on election day. On one Tuesday in November during those 14 hours when this person might have had the opportunity to have their voice heard. Was it predictable? No. As a representative democracy, these parents have just as much of a right to have their voices

heard at the ballot box as any of the rest of us. Our representative democracy only works if all of our voices participate.

I could site case after case of people who would show up in my very full schedule on election day. I could go on and on with all of the different things that impact and interrupt a day when an emergency occurs but everyone of us has lived long enough to have an emergency on someday at some point that just forces to re-adjust our plans for the day.

I have now read several responses from legislators who stand in opposition to these bills. The responses have been that everyone can come in in those 14 hours. That just doesn't reflect reality that life happens in unpredictable ways on election day as it does every other day of the year.

Because I was a professional with reliable transportation, I had the wonderful freedom to arrange my schedule to accommodate election day. Unless of course one of my own children had an emergency, or my 98 yr old Mom fell ill and required my attention.

So I implore you to create a system in which voters can choose to vote by absentee if that is what works best for them in their particular life circumstances. All CT voters have the right to have their voices heard by those who

represent them in Hartford. Please put yourselves in the shoes of those less fortunate and support both HJ58 and HJ 59, by supporting expanded ballot access here in CT. Thank you.