

**RE: HJ 58; RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.**

I write in support of this resolution.

No-excuse absent balloting proved to be secure and widely used this past election cycle. CT benefited from the experience of many States who allow this. Long experience has established rigorous procedures to preserve the integrity of our elections. The problem with delineating election law in the Constitution is that the CT lacks the flexibility to adapt to new technologies and unforeseen circumstances. Covid-19 is the most recent example. The election laws of CT are the most restrictive of all the States in the US, because other States allow election laws to be modified by statute rather than amending their Constitution. HJ 58 would allow CT residents to voice their opinion about whether it is time to amend the constitution and allow the legislature to debate the best way to do that.

No-excuse balloting substantially increased the percentage of eligible voters who voted in the last elections. Democracy succeeds best if participation in our elections is robust and inclusive of all voters regardless of their ability to get to the poles. No-excuse absentee balloting provides the widest access to our citizens.

Thank you,

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