

To: GAETestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: SUPPORT **HJ58** (NEAV) & **HJ59** (EV) - **public hearing date 2/22/21**

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,

Voting in CT needs to be more convenient and therefore fair for **ALL** CT voters. The ease and accessibility of voting for me and my family in this past election season was **incredibly empowering** because despite life's daily challenges, **voting was manageable**. My step mother had cancer treatment many years ago which she believes is the cause for her difficulty with balance. **So her not having to worry and accrue more stress and instability during this past election promoted a deep sense of peace**. Which is exactly what most of the population needs. **We need less stress**. These bills support that. I just learned that CT is one of only a handful of states that does not offer either early voting or unrestricted absentee voting.

Please help in continuing to promote the things people need most, empowerment, peace and prosperity by voting YES on HJ 58 in support of a Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting and in SUPPORT of HJ 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting.

By voting YES to these, you are not supporting or opposing Absentee Voting for all. Rather, you are simply voting YES to allow your constituents to express OUR opinion on whether or not WE want voting to be easier, accessible and convenient in CT via a ballot referendum.

Many voters do not understand that if the NEAV legislation does not pass with at least a 75% majority they will have to wait until AT LEAST 2026 for the choice to vote absentee without an excuse. This is unacceptable. Let's reduce people's stress and increase their well-being by bringing CT in line with other states and give voters the choice to vote in person on more than one day or by absentee ballot from home. We deserve this and let's CT voters deserve this.

CT voters clearly want voting to be easy, convenient and accessible. According to the 1/28/21 press release from the Secretary of the State, "73% of Connecticut voters support giving all voters the option to vote by absentee ballot while keeping polling places open, including 79% of voters aged 18 to 34 and 75% of voters aged 65 and up. Despite it becoming a polarized, partisan issue during and after the 2020 election, 48% of Republican voters and 44% of Trump voters, along with 75% of unaffiliated voters, 89% of Democrats, and 92% of Biden voters, support expanding access to absentee ballots." Please do not make us wait any longer.

Thank you,

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