



**Connecticut General Assembly**  
**SENATE DEMOCRATS**

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

February 22, 2021

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 58-- A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING**

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco and distinguished members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee:

We are here to testify in support of caucus priority House Joint Resolution 58—A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING because although all eligible voters in Connecticut have the right to vote in-person on Election Day, not all may have the ability to do so. It is incumbent upon us to provide flexible, accessible and convenient voting options to all residents of our state.

Connecticut is one of only sixteen states where no-excuse absentee voting is not available. Here, a state-approved excuse is required to request an absentee ballot. The remaining two-thirds of the states allow any qualified voter to vote absentee without offering an excuse, allowing millions of Americans to cast their vote at their convenience by absentee ballot. Offering no-excuse absentee ballots will not only result in increased voter access and participation but can also result in increased voter satisfaction and financial savings. In states where no-excuse absentee ballots are permitted, voters have expressed more enthusiasm about the electoral process and have appreciated being able to study the issues and review the ballots at home. Jurisdictions with no-excuse absentee ballots have also seen financial savings in the need to reduce staffing at polling locations. Of greatest significance, however, is that permitting no-excuse absentee ballots would permit more residents to vote in the manner most convenient to them. Connecticut's current restrictions on the use of absentee ballots may limit many of the hardworking parents, business owners, and students in our state from participating in the democratic process.

HJR 58 would eliminate the many hurdles our constituents face when trying to vote on Election Day by expanding ballot access to voters who are looking to exercise their right to vote. We hope you will join us in supporting this important piece of legislation while it moves through the

process and to an eventual passage by a three-fourths majority in both chambers allowing the question on the ballot on November 8, 2022.

Sincerely,



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Martin M. Looney  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
State Senator 11<sup>th</sup> District



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Saud Anwar  
State Senator 3<sup>rd</sup> District



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Will Haskell  
State Senator 26<sup>th</sup> District



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Doug McCrory  
State Senator 2<sup>nd</sup> District



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Bob Duff  
Senate Majority Leader  
State Senator 25<sup>th</sup> District



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Jorge Cabrera  
State Senator 17<sup>th</sup> District



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Alex Kasser  
State Senator 36<sup>th</sup> District



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Marilyn Moore  
State Senator 22<sup>nd</sup> District



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Norm Needleman  
State Senator 33<sup>rd</sup> District



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Derek Slap  
State Senator 5<sup>th</sup> District



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Matt Lesser  
State Senator 9<sup>th</sup> District



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Gary Winfield  
State Senator 10<sup>th</sup> District



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James Maroney  
State Senator 14<sup>th</sup> District



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Julie Kushner  
State Senator 24<sup>th</sup> District



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Christine Cohen  
State Senator 12<sup>th</sup> District



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Cathy Osten  
State Senator 19<sup>th</sup> District



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Mary Daugherty Abrams  
State Senator 13<sup>th</sup> District