

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Testimony for 2/22/21 public hearing in SUPPORT of bill HJ 58 for Absentee Voting and HJ 59 for Early Voting.

The last election cycle had a massive turnout, more than 650,000 voters participated with absentee voting in the last election. We need to make this the NORM for Connecticut.

43 states offer EARLY VOTING options.

I have a friend in Washington State who has not set foot in a voting booth in YEARS, WA has all mail in elections. It is secure, safer than in person voting, and allows more people to participate in the democratic process.

Connecticut still lags behind our neighbors and states across the country when it comes to voter access. The time is now for all members of the Connecticut General Assembly to support these voting rights expansions:

1. A constitutional amendment to allow all registered voters to vote by absentee ballot without an "excuse".
2. A constitutional amendment to allow early, in-person voting.
3. Legislation to implement automatic voter registration (AVR) beyond the Dept. of Motor Vehicles to other state agencies and to update the online voter registration (OVR) system.
4. Legislation to restore voting rights to individuals on parole.
5. Legislation to allow for absentee ballots to be counted early, and for secure ballot drop boxes.

SUPPORT THESE TWO BILLS! Democracy needs it!

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