

February 18, 2021

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Michaela Smith and I live in Greenwich, CT. I am writing to you in support of HJ58 and HJ59 to allow early voting and no-excuse absentee ballot voting in Connecticut.

In the United States, 43 states and the District of Columbia offer early in-person voting as an option and voters need more than one day on which they can vote. I am registered as an Independent and I worked the election this year counting absentee ballots and the process went extremely well.

While we say that voting is a right, and not a privilege, it is difficult for many to get to the polls, wait in line and then get back home on a single specified day in November, especially working people and parents that cannot afford childcare. That is not easy access to the polls. In Connecticut the vast majority of voters support these bills.

We need to make it easier to vote in Connecticut, not harder.

Please support HJ58 and HJ59 this year.

Thank you,

**Michaela Smith
57 Chapel Street
Greenwich, CT 06831**