

Laura Smits, resident of Norwalk  
GAE Committee  
February 19, 2021

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,

**I am writing in support** of H.J. No. 58: Resolution proposing a state constitutional amendment to allow no-excuse absentee voting. And,

**I am writing in support** of H.J. No. 59: Resolution approving an amendment to the state constitution to allow for early voting.

I urge you to support the two above bills that will make voting easier and more accessible to all eligible Connecticut citizens so that they may participate in our great democracy. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Governor Lamont and Secretary Merrill were able to expand voting rights to keep residents safe that included more convenient ways for Connecticut to vote, including no-excuse absentee ballots and municipal drop boxes, in addition to safety protocols for in-person voting. As a result of these actions, Connecticut's voter turnout in the 2020 election was the highest it has ever been. We need to give Connecticut voters as many opportunities as possible to participate in elections so that our state can achieve a more representative democracy.

Connecticut is one of only a handful of states that require an excuse to vote by absentee and at this juncture only has in-person voting on one day, Election Day. We need to make voting in Connecticut easier and more accessible to more people.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of these very important and worthwhile bills. I urge you to vote YES on these bills.

Sincerely,

Laura Smits, Norwalk

Member of the LWVCT Board and LWV of Norwalk, former Registrar of Voters

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