

2/19/21

To: Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Mae Flexer and House Representative Daniel J. Fox and Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee

SUBJECT MATTER: Government Administration and Elections Bills.

H.J. No. 58 (COMM) RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

H.J. No. 59 (COMM) RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING.

S.B. No. 901 (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING TO JUNE 30, 2021, CHANGES IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19.

H.B. No. 6464 (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING TO MAY 31, 2021, SEVERAL CHANGES IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19.

In 29 states and Washington, D.C., any voter can request a mail-in ballot without providing an excuse. Five states successfully conduct elections entirely by mail (Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington).

38 states and D.C. allow for in-person early voting in some form. Only 7 states, including Connecticut, do not allow early voting.

I fully support voting reform in CT and believe it is long overdue. State and local officials across the country, including Connecticut, go to great lengths to ensure elections are secure and legitimate. We just experienced a secure and legitimate election in CT in 2020, including the use of absentee ballot voting by mail using the Covid-19 excuse. And we have on-going evidence of success from prior elections in states already utilizing no-excuse, mail-in voting and early voting.

I fully support all 4 proposed bills listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theodore L. Taigen
6 Waterhouse Lane
Chester, CT 06412
860-322-4308