



## **Written Testimony in Support of H.B.5531: An Act Concerning Faithful Presidential Electors**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Representative Blumenthal, Ranking Members Senator Sampson and Representative Mastrofrancesco and Committee members:

I am writing as the Executive Director of Election Reformers Network (ERN), a nonpartisan policy organization focused on modernizing US elections to protect against polarization.

Election Reformers Network urges the Government Administration and Elections Committee to pass H.B. 5531 and advance it to the floor in 2026. In a time of significant risks to the norms that have long undergirded our democracy, H.B. 5531 guards against any risk of faithless presidential electors in Connecticut. Requiring candidates for presidential electors to execute pledges to vote for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates associated with filings/registrations is a simple, commonsense way to protect the vote of the Connecticut people.

H.B. 5531 has widespread nonpartisan support and was developed consistent with the Uniform Law Commission's uniform "Faithful Presidential Electors Act". Twenty-six states have passed similar strong laws (that also include enforcement mechanisms) against faithless electors. Such states include New York, New Hampshire, Florida, and California. Finally, the Supreme Court in 2020 upheld Colorado's statute to limit elector discretion.

The bill provides important benefits to Connecticut including:

1. Enacts a clear process for removing an elector who is not faithful to the popular will.
2. Prevents the solicitation of faithless electors by entities who wish to change the results of an election.
3. Avoids litigation during presidential transitions.

4. Provides voters with confidence and certainty that the votes they have cast will be accurately reflected in the Electoral College.

We believe that states need to upgrade laws to remove any risk to the proper electors voting in the electoral college based on a fair counting of all valid votes. ERN thanks the introducers of this bill for trying to build a safeguard to prevent faithless presidential electors in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.