

**IN SUPPORT OF Proposed Bill 6006 an Act Providing for an Adjourned Primary
in the Event of a Tie**

Testimony submitted: Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 28, 2007

By Urania Petit, University of Connecticut School of Social Work Student

Good morning, Senator Slossberg, Representative Caruso and members of the Government, Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Urania Petit and I am an intern at the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work (NAHIPSW) at University of Connecticut School of Social Work. One of NAHIPSW's goals is to explore the ways all social workers can expand the political empowerment of clients through voter registration, mobilization, and education. It was with this mission in mind I embarked on a voter registration project, which featured the way in which an election was won in a Democratic primary for the 41st General Assembly District in Connecticut.

I could not believe that in this country, in this State that a tie election could be broken by a coin flip. As an Immigrant, I had heard often that every vote counts and every vote does matter, but never realize the importance of getting every vote counted.

The NAHIPSW interns designed an exhibit that challenges students to contemplate whether critical public policy issues and/or elected officials should be determined by a **coin flip!** Our voter registration campaign began with a Question -- What if a flip of a coin determined... tuition increases, availability of stem cell research and other pertinent issues.

The flip of the coin campaign caught the attention of the school of Social Work Community. The number of students who fill out a voter registration card was three times

higher than what they have done in the past. It was clear to me, that the story of this election caught the attention and interest of our community and the need for change is apparent.

People need to feel that their vote does count and matter. Having an election decided “by lot” give the voters a sense of emptiness, false sense of hope and they feel powerless.

People need to feel the sense of empowerment a vote creates. Hence, the reason why I support proposed bill 6006 An Act Providing for an Adjourned Primary in the Event of a Tie, where voter can have a sense of fairness and the chance to get their voices heard by exercising their fundamental rights by voting no matter the cost.