



*empowering young women
to lead their best lives possible*

Written Testimony of
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A Project of the CT General Assembly's
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
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Committee Bill 6251: AA Authorizing Election Day Registration

The Young Women's Leadership Program supports Committee Bill 6251, which we believe can significantly impact voter turnout, especially amongst youth. In 2004, youth ages eighteen to twenty-four had the lowest voter turn-out rate in the country¹. During a time of such extreme growth and life change, registering to vote prior to an election can be forgotten or delayed.

Committee Bill 6251 allows admission as an elector on Election Day. Many young people, age 18-24, are at a time in their life where their address may change frequently. This can prove difficult because each state has different rules, such as submitting absentee ballots.

We strongly support your efforts to create a more equitable playing field for voter registration and applaud any and all precautions measures taken to promote the integrity of our electoral system. It is our belief that Election Day registration will encourage young women to participate in the political process therefore lending to their overall leadership development.

The Young Women's Leadership Program was established in 2006 as a project of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. It is lead by a group of young women representing a wide variety of career fields and areas of expertise.

The mission of the Young Women's Leadership Program is to inspire and empower young women in high schools, vocational schools, colleges and beyond to emerge as leaders. We will provide testimony on several issues to highlight the perspectives of young women and to educate legislators about how different legislation would affect young women throughout the state.

¹ <http://www.census.gov>