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Government Administration and Elections Public Hearing
February 28, 2007

Testimony submitted by Justin Kronholm
In support of House Bill 5977

Good morning members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I submit this testimony today in support of House Bill 5977, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE BALLOT.

As many of you are aware, since 1976, the determination of which party will be placed at the top of the ballot in Connecticut has been based on which party's candidate for governor polled the highest number of votes in the previous election. I would like to confirm my agreement with the sponsor of this proposed legislation that basing ballot placement on voter registration presents an equitable alternative to the current approach, and, of particular note, optimally encourages political parties to actively register voters.

To elaborate, because House Bill 5977 would provide preferred placement on the ballot to the candidates of the party having the largest number of registrants, all parties will be encouraged to focus their attention on registering new voters. The Democratic Party certainly recognizes the value of encouraging all citizens' participation in the political process and, accordingly, spends a great deal of time and effort recruiting and registering new members to the Democratic Party. The passage of House Bill 5977 would promote both parties' efforts to build their memberships and thereby create renewed enthusiasm regarding our political process.

For these reasons, I encourage you to vote in favor of this legislation. I appreciate your time and attention to this proposed Bill.