

***Testimony Presented  
By Patrick M. Pitoniak  
37 Fern Street  
West Haven, Connecticut 06516***

***February 29, 2008  
10:30 AM  
Room 2B LOB***

***Re: HJ 21, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow Seventeen-Year-Old Persons Who Will be Eighteen Years of Age at the Next Regular Election to Vote in Primaries Related to Such Election***

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Patrick Pitoniak. I am a senior at Notre Dame High School in West Haven. I am also the senior vice president of The Millard Fillmore Club at Notre Dame High School, our political action club. I am here today in support of HJ 21, which if enacted would allow certain seventeen-year-olds to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 at the time of the general election. I have been a part of the student body of the Millard Fillmore Club who have advocated for such an amendment for the past four years.

Giving young people a chance to be more active participants in the political process is essential to the growth of our nation. Through discussions with my fellow classmates in my online Advanced Placement United States Government class, I have seen great enthusiasm for voting and political issues. At Notre Dame, I always hear someone talking about the next presidential election. Young people today are well informed on politics through the technology of the internet. To date, eighteen other states have enacted legislation allowing seventeen-year-olds to vote if they meet certain criteria. This legislation would have a positive impact on young

voter turnout. I urge you to enact legislation to extend voting rights for my generation so that we may be more active in the democratic process.

Thank You.

~~Patricia Retamal~~

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

*[Extremely faint, illegible handwritten text covering the bottom half of the page]*