Statement of Andrew Rose

Madam Co-Chair, Mr. Co-Chair, members of the committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak before you. My name is Andrew Rose. I am a resident of Naugatuck, CT. I urge you to vote in favor of Governor's Bills 5022 and 5024, and Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 2 pertaining to voting rights and registration.

The Declaration of Independence tells us that *"...governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."* In a representative republic such as ours, that consent is given when citizens exercise their right to vote. An increase in voting helps strengthen the fiduciary bond between the governed and their governors. I believe passage of this pending legislation will significantly increase voting.

Election day registration will lead to higher voter turnout. In the last presidential election, the five states posting the highest turnout all had election day registration. When North Carolina passed its election day registration legislation, the result was a 13% increase in voter turnout in the following election.

Having a right does not automatically preclude logistical barriers to exercising that right. Election day registration benefits many, such as the economically disadvantaged, the elderly and the infirm for whom registering in advance at a town hall is onerous. Election day registration also helps those who may have been mistakenly purged from their town's voting rolls; it would prevent people from being turned away at the polling place, and is more cost-effective than having to review and validate provisional ballots. For those like me who have had to travel for work, often with little or no notice, current requirements for absentee ballots often make it impossible to vote. The legislation before you effectively addresses and eliminates these barriers.

Your vote in favor of this legislation is a vote to strengthen democracy, and a vote which allows all legislators to strengthen the legacy they leave to our state.

Thank you.