



YALE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

February 29, 2012

Chairs Gayle S. Slossberg and Russell A. Morin
Committee on Government Administration and Elections
Connecticut Legislature
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Chairs Slossberg and Morin, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I write on behalf of the Yale College Democrats and college students from every part of Connecticut to encourage you to support and pass the following pieces of legislation:

- Governor's H.B. No. 5024: An Act Concerning Voting Rights
- H.J. No. 2: A Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

Both of these would help expand the voting rights of all Citizens of Connecticut as well as make the institutions that govern democracy in our state more just and more equitable.

In particular, these measures will allow college students and young people to better participate in the democratic process and contribute to the discourse on important issues in our state. College students and other young people typically face high barriers to efficacious political participation: we tend to move frequently, have little experience with politics, and often lack access to information on the political process.

Allowing for Election Day registration and no-excuse absentee voting would help lower these barriers. Allowing for no-excuse absentee voting would provide more opportunities young people to vote while they navigate unpredictable work and school schedules. Likewise, permitting Election Day registration would enable those who already appreciate the merits of political participation to engage new voters and introduce them to the process of voting. These measures would undoubtedly draw more young people into the political process and help them internalize the value of civic participation.

Allowing no-excuse absentee voting and Election Day registration will allow young people to begin more consistent and long lasting involvement in the democratic process. In turn, this will help correct or the systemic underrepresentation of the interests of younger voters and reduce the inequity that continues to lurk in the state of Connecticut.

I have truly valued the opportunities I have had to take part in political action and the voting process. I hope you seriously consider these bills and enable other young people to appreciate politics in the same way I have.

Sincerely,

Andrew Connery
Vice President
Yale College Democrats