

**GAE PUBLIC HEARING March 2, 2012**

**Sue Larsen testimony in SUPPORT of**

**HJ2 Resolution proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting**

Senator Slossberg, Rep. Morin and Committee Members,

I am here in support of HJ2, as I have always had concerns about restrictions on the use of the absentee ballot for limited purposes. In today's world, commuter times are variable, work schedules change and family after school schedules are not as easy to accommodate or predict as in the past. Someone facing this situation may wish to apply for an absentee ballot in order to be assured of being able to vote. Today they would be forced to "stretch the truth" in order to get an absentee ballot. This disenfranchises voters who want to be sure their vote counts but not at the expense of the truth.

While this bill may mean more work for Town Clerks, one resolution would be to place absentee ballots in the hands of the Registrars of Voters. They are the election officials and this would be a logical choice for the additional work.

Having said this, there is a concern whenever a change to the Constitution is made. Sometimes the scope of the proposal gets expanded beyond its original intent. I would hope that due diligence would be given to insuring the integrity of the election process is maintained. This change should not be construed to open up the flood gate to other election laws and other means of voting.

Thank you for allowing this testimony.

Sue W. Larsen  
Democratic Registrar of Voters  
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