



Retirees

Council 400

since 1962

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Thomas Connolly
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SERVICE EMPLOYEES
 INTERNATIONAL UNION,
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CONNECTICUT STATE
 EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
 760 Capitol Avenue
 Hartford, CT 06106-1206
 860.951.6614
 Toll Free 1.800.894.9479
 FL Toll Free 1.800.437.5630
 Fax 860.951.3526

Connecticut General Assembly Government Administration and Elections Committee

January 28, 2013

TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARING: House Joint Resolution Number 16

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Ranking Members,
 and Members of the Government Administration and
 Elections Committee:

My name is Tom Connolly. I am a resident of West
 Hartford and I am the Vice President of Council 400,
 CSEA/SEIU Local 2001's retiree council that represents
 over 12,000 retired Connecticut public employees.

I come to speak today in support of House Joint
 Resolution Number 16, a Resolution Approving an
 Amendment to the State Constitution to Grant Increased
 Authority to the General Assembly Regarding Election
 Administration. This resolution has particular importance
 to seniors and retirees. After all, it is only a matter of
 when not if a snowstorm or some other type of harsh
 weather makes it difficult to impossible and definitely
 dangerous for a senior citizen to make it to their polling
 place on Election Day in November.





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Allowing early voting and no fault absentee balloting would lower unnecessary bars to participation in our electoral process. And, it would bring Connecticut in line with voter participation laws and requirements in most other states.

In Connecticut and nationally, seniors consistently have the highest level of voter participation of any age demographic. However, seniors should not be forced to choose between exercising our constitutional right to vote and driving to our polling place through a snowstorm.

I have dedicated my life to public service. As a veteran of the United States Army, a former social worker, and now as an advocate for my fellow retirees; I know that we are strongest as a state and a nation when everyone is allowed to participate in the safest and most effective ways possible.

House Joint Resolution Number 16 is the right thing to for our democratic way of government. It is also right to place this amendment before the voters, so, that we the people can strengthen our democracy.

I respectfully urge you to vote for House Joint Resolution Number 16.