

S.B. No. 432 AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES TO
ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

My name is Jacob Wasserman, and I am a current student at Yale University and resident of New Haven, CT. Last fall, I traveled all over New Haven and Connecticut, asking people to get out and vote in the November elections. Many people, though, asked me why they should bother voting in the presidential race. Connecticut is not a "swing state," they said, so their votes would not matter. That's why I'm writing today to urge the General Assembly to pass S.B. No. 432 and add Connecticut to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

In a fair democracy, one person should get one equal vote. No matter where we live, we should have the same say in electing our president. The outdated Electoral College has failed to reflect our countries choices time and time again, and it's time to replace it. A repeat of 2000 would be unfair to the voters of our state and our nation, who simply want their votes to count.

By passing the National Popular Vote bill, candidates will focus less on so-called "swing states" and more on our own local issues. A state like Connecticut will suddenly be on the national stage, and all those people I urged to vote will finally have a voice. The chance of costly and contentious recounts will also go down. The popular vote is simple, fair, and just common sense.

Right now, many states, like Virginia and Wisconsin, are considering "vote rigging" plans that would manipulate the Electoral College. These efforts would award electoral votes based on unfairly drawn, gerrymandered congressional districts, instead of the statewide winner. For example, Pennsylvania, which voted 52% for Obama, would have given the President only 35% of its electoral vote. If this plan is unchecked, the will of the people won't be reflected and the candidate with the most votes won't be elected. By passing National Popular Vote now, this catastrophe can be avoided and the Electoral College can be retired. As a young American, I want my vote to affect the future of the country, which can only happen if Connecticut passes this bill as soon as possible.

Jacob Wasserman