February 25, 2013

Statement of Laura Puopolo

Good morning to the members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Laura Puopolo and I am the president of the Southern Connecticut State University Chapter of Democracy Matters, as well as a political science student at Southern Connecticut. I am writing to you today in regards to Senate Bill 432, concerning national popular vote in presidential elections and urging you to vote in favor of this bill.

As a political science major, I have always been actively engaged in the United States political system, by following elections closely and voting in my first election at eighteen years old. However, I am very few of young people who are so actively involved and fascinated by the political system in place that elects our president of the United States. Many of my peers are quite disinterested in politics and voting, due to the fact that they believe their vote does not count and/or make a difference. This sole fact creates an entire population of an apathetic constituency that are not taking advantage of their right to vote.

Last semester, members of the SCSU Chapter of Democracy Matters took a poll of students on campus to try and understand their feelings of politics and other issues found on campus. It was determined that even though 60% of students polled were registered to vote, only 40% usually voted in federal and state elections, and only 42% of students polled believed it was important to participate in the political process.

I cannot urge the passage of this bill more strongly. In the past election, I had spoken with a majority of individuals around my age who decided to not participate in the elections because they believed their vote did not count. This common attitude among individuals can be changed and eventually, bring more young people to the polls and into the political process that the United States government has provided its citizens with.

Thank you very much for your time and allowing me this opportunity to speak with you.