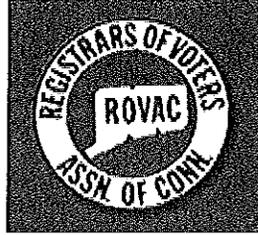


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Monday, March 25, 2013
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Opposition : S.B. 4 An Act Concerning Early Voting

My name is Peter Gostin. I am Vice-President of ROVAC and a member of their Legislative Committee.

I am testifying in opposition to SB 4, as this year's legislative session will likely see passage of HJ36 which would be put on the November 2014 ballot seeking to amend Article Sixth Section 7 of our state constitution by allowing for unrestricted voting for persons not appearing at the polls on election day.

Absentee voting is a form of early voting, and the only one currently permissible prior to election day. To pass SB 4 and allow for a different form of early voting would appear to be unconstitutional.

Beyond the constitutionality question, SB 4 as drafted has a number of other provisions ROVAC would like to see addressed and discussed further for clarity, such as the eight day starting timeframe prior to election day, only citing town halls or other municipal buildings as polling places, the last day allowed for registration, implementing only in state election years, and others. This legislation would also add a substantial fiscal burden on municipalities by increasing mailing supplies, postage, and personnel costs.

It would be premature to enact any legislation before the voters have spoken on the November 2014 ballot question. Restraint from adopting SB 4 would be the better course of action at this time.