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TOWN OF VERNON

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Senator Musto, Representative Julita & Members of the GAE

PSB 778 AAC The Reduction Of Polling Places For a Primary.

My Name is Judith Beaudreau; I am an Election Administrator / Registrar of Voters for the Town of Vernon, CT. I would like to support Senator Witkos and Representative Hampton in proposing this bill. For years we have seen the decline of participation in Primaries. The costs of running primaries are expensive when most people do not participate. We vote here in CT for 14 hours a reduction in polling place would not only help in cost but it would defiantly give ample time for a primary voter to get to their polling place. I am sure that in the large Cities where primaries actually decide the out come of the general elections that those registrars would not utilize this factor. But in my municipality where over the years I could show you stats that it is clearly a waste of money for the participating votes that are cast. By notifying the potential voters of the change in sites it will also be like an invitation to come to vote, clearly an advantage for increased voting. The added cost in notification to the potential voters is so cost effective v/s opening all the polls and staffing each polling place. A similar bill RHB 6427 seems to have language that will help with this proposed bill.