

-YALE COLLEGE- DEMOCRATS

Testimony of Azeezat Adeleke
Events Coordinator, Yale College Democrats

206 Elm Street, Suite C41
New Haven, CT 06511

In favor: H.B. No. 5126
An Act Concerning an Agreement among the States to
Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Azeezat Adeleke and I am a board member of the Yale College Democrats, a Yale student, and a resident of Connecticut. I write to you to express my support for H.B. 5126, a bill that would enter our state into the National Popular Vote (NPV) Interstate Compact. I encourage you to support this bill because it would immensely strengthen Connecticut's voice in national politics.

For too long, "safe" states like Connecticut have yielded the national campaign spotlight to swing states like Ohio and Florida. They receive inordinate attention from presidential candidates who desperately seek as many Electoral College votes as possible. By June 2013, President Obama had visited Ohio 39 times and Florida 30 times. How could Connecticut keep up? This isn't just a conversation about which state gets to hear a candidate give a funny speech at the state fair. Swing states' undue influence in election years gives them undue influence in non-election years and Washington's corridors of power.

If you vote to make Connecticut a National Popular Vote participant, our state will take that power back. During the next presidential election, we would pledge to give our electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote. Pure and simple. NPV will not come into effect until enough states sign up to guarantee that the winner of the popular vote will take the White House.

Nine states, plus the District of Columbia, have already joined the NPV Interstate Compact. 74% of Connecticut voters support the legislation. You have the power to make Connecticut the next jurisdiction to fight for its say in our presidential politics. Again, I urge you to support H.B. 5126.

Sincerely Yours,
Azeezat Adeleke