



March 24, 2014

To: Members of the Government and Elections Administration Committee

From: Cheri Quickmire, Executive Director Common Cause in Connecticut

Re: Senate Joint Resolution No. 24 Resolution Proposing A Constitutional Amendment To Permit Overseas Military Voters An Opportunity To Waive The Right Of Secret Voting In Order To Vote By Any Method Permitted Under State Law

I am writing in opposition to SJ 24. Common Cause has opposed internet voting before the GAE Committee in the past and we fear that this proposal, which would alter our state constitution to allow military voters to waive their right of secret voting, would unnecessarily place the ballot of those serving overseas in the military in jeopardy. We have an absentee ballot opportunity in place and we do not have sufficient security measures in place to permit electronic voting of any kind.

We agree with the League of Women Voters that including an exception for overseas military voters in the constitution would create an ambiguity with respect to other voters and open the door to other exceptions. We further agree that there are other ways to address concerns about overseas military voters having a ballot in a timely manner, other ways that do not require a constitutional amendment.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

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