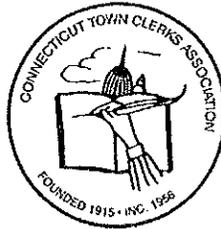


Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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TESTIMONY

February 25, 2015

Government Administration and Elections Committee

OPPOSE: Proposed Bill 6113

An Act Expanding the Use of Absentee Ballots

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and the distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. The Connecticut Town Clerks Association opposes Proposed Bill No. 6113 An Act Expanding Use of Absentee Ballots. As the title of this bill indicates, this legislation will dramatically expand the use of absentee ballot voting by allowing voters to vote by absentee ballot if they are out of town for any portion of that day. For example, if today was Election Day, according to this law, almost everyone in this room would be able to vote by Absentee ballot unless they lived in the City of Hartford. Last fall the voters clearly rejected the Constitutional question, which sought to remove restrictions on absentee ballot voting and provide for other methods of early voting. This proposal seems seeks to circumvent the will of the public who clearly indicated they do not support a change to the absentee ballot or early voting system.

Before considering any expansion of absentee ballot voting, efforts need to be made to streamline this cumbersome process. The Town Clerks Association has many ideas that would make it more efficient and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Secretary of State on this.

The Town Clerks support a comprehensive review of all early voting options taking into consideration security, cost, technology, and voter convenience to determine the best method. As the Constitutional question to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots failed last November it would seem disingenuous to move forward with legislation. We would hope that any future proposals would be presented to the voting public so that they too can have a voice in how we pursue changes.

On behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Essie Labrot

Chair, Legislative & Elections Committee