



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

**Testimony in Opposition of HB 6900 AAC Election Administration**

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE Committee, my name is Timothy De Carlo, and I am the Registrar of Voters from the City of Waterbury, as well as a member of ROVAC Legislative Committee. I am here today to testify in opposition of HB 6900.

If I can provide some background as the use of this section - as infrequent as it might be. ROVAC believes its existence only adds to the CT voters confidence in an open fair and transparent election process.

Due to complaints of possible absentee voter fraud during the 2011 Municipal Election in the City of Waterbury, the Registrars office conducted supervised absentee voting in two apartment houses. It was during these supervised absentee voting sessions that it was discovered that at least ten people who requested ballots did not live in the actual apartment house. It was confirmed by the property manager that those who requested ballots did not live at that address provided to the Town Clerk. It was at that point that our office filed a complaint with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, (SEEC). SEEC felt that our offices complaint was valid and opened an investigation into the possible absentee voter fraud.

ROVAC does not support the elimination of sub section (l) from section 9-159q of the general statutes. This sub-section as it is currently written states that if the Town Clerk receives twenty or more absentee ballot applications from the same street address in a town, including, but not limited to, an apartment building or complex, absentee ballots voted by these electors submitting such applications, may, at the discretion of the registrars of voters of such town, be voted under the supervision of such registrars of voters or their designees in accordance with the same procedures set forth by 9-195q for supervised absentee voting at institutions.

Sub-section (l) helps to protect the integrity of elections in Connecticut and therefore ROVAC does not support its elimination from 9-159q.