

Gaetano, Carolyn

From: Elsa Peterson <epltd@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 12:35 PM
To: GAETestimony
Cc: Rep. Perone, Chris; Sen. Duff, Bob
Subject: Senate Bill 829

Testimony re: Senate Bill 829

February 20, 2015

As a volunteer coordinator of voter registration for my local chapter of the League of Women Voters (Norwalk, CT), I strongly oppose Senate Bill 829, which would require each person who assists others in registering to vote file a statement with the Secretary of the State.

In 2014, the League of Women Voters of Norwalk had 20 volunteers help with voter registration and we registered more than 110 voters, as well as answering many people's questions about registering and voting, at more than a dozen events throughout the summer. These volunteers are responsible, dedicated members of the community who have made the effort to come out and give of their time in this nonpartisan service to all eligible voters. There is no reason to put an obstacle in the way of their civic participation.

If there is any doubt about the chilling effect that a law like Senate Bill 829 would have on voter registration, we have only to look at what happened in Florida when a similar law took effect in May 2011. An analysis by the New York Times (reported in March 2012) described the sharp drop in new registrations in comparison with the same period before the 2008 presidential election: 39% decrease in Miami-Dade County, 20% decrease in Orange and Volusia Counties, etc.

I urge you to defeat Senate Bill 829 and any other efforts to make voter registration more difficult in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Elsa Peterson Obuchowski

41 East Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06851-3919 USA

(203) 846-8331 / Mobile (203) 984-8892