



Monday, March 9, 2015  
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Submitted by Juan Verdú, Democratic Registrar of Voters, City of New Britain

**Oppose S.B. 1051 An Act Concerning Strengthening Connecticut's Elections**

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, and Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Juan Verdu, Democratic Registrar of Voters of New Britain.

I am here to speak about Bill SB1051. I have been a registrar of voters for two years. In these two years I have come to appreciate the importance and responsibilities of the office of the registrar of voters. I am still learning some of the ins and outs of my everyday job. I have been learning from everyone in the office, my assistant and my republican counterpart. I love democracy and the process of how we get there by election rather than by appointments.

I believe that training should be done! It should be done in collaboration between ROVAC and the Secretary of the State Office and should be a requirement. This training should be to create a certification for Registrars that should include all that is needed to run the office (i.e. getting everything ready for an election, preparing the voters list, deadlines, etc...). The same group (ROVAC and the Secretary of the State Office) should also develop a training program for poll workers, so that, every Connecticut community can train its workers the same way (from tabulator testing to every position needed to run the election, responsibilities and duties).

I am against any political appointment for election administrators. I am for the right of being able to challenge any individual/office and this right should not be taken away from the voter. I believe, and can tell you from experience, that the checks and balances that the multiparty system create, is good for a fair and honest election.

**In summary, I respectfully urge the members of the GAE committee to reject SB 1051.**

Thank you for your time.