



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of:
HB5391: AN ACT CONCERNING THE HANDLING OF VOTER AFFIDAVITS.
General Administration and Election Committee
February 29, 2016

Good Afternoon Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, Ranking Member McLachlan, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the General Administration and Election Committee. I would like to thank you for raising HB 5391, AN ACT CONCERNING THE HANDLING OF VOTER AFFIDAVITS.

When individuals arrive at their polling location, each voter must provide proof of identification or sign an affidavit claiming that they are who they say they are. Currently, there are no procedures in place for storing or auditing these affidavits. While some cities and towns have clear filing methods that allow for easy access, others lack the storage or have stored them in a way where they are no longer accessible due to other state and federal statutes.

I support this legislation that would allow the Secretary of State's office to issue statewide regulations addressing this problem. We need regulations that promote clean and transparent elections. As a state, we should be decreasing our risk of voter fraud and protecting one of our most basic constitutional rights. Without official regulations, we have no way of verifying these affidavits or finding out if we are even experiencing cases of fraud due to this unmonitored policy.

Again, I would like to thank the committee for bringing forward this bill and look forward to working towards cleaner, more transparent elections.