



**Testimony of Evan Preston, State Director  
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)**

**To the Government Administration and Elections Committee  
In Support of House Bill 5514: An Act Concerning The Department of Motor Vehicles and Automatic  
Voter Registration**

Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, Ranking Member MacLachlan, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

I encourage the committee to support House Bill 5514: An Act Concerning The Department of Motor Vehicles and Automatic Voter Registration. For a stronger democracy and for greater government efficiency, this bill is a step forward.

Our democracy is stronger when more people participate. Removing barriers to voting is a positive step toward greater participation in our democracy. The decisions we make together as the people of Connecticut are better decisions when more people join in electing public officials. As the Secretary of State has noted, HB 5514 could add thousands of people to the list of registered voters and begin the process of bringing those eligible voters into our democracy. Further, by placing the burden of voter registration on the state, through use of the officially verified information the state already holds, we can clearly show our commitment to removing barriers to voting.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we should be using electronic technologies to maximize government efficiency. Automatic voter registration presents a tremendous opportunity for eliminating waste in government by reducing the cost of administering the process of registering voters. It can be expected that there would be long-term notable cost-savings related to obviating the printing and in-take of paper registrations through automatic voter registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 5514.

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