

February 21, 2017

To: Government Administration and Elections Committee

From: Marina Cramer
Middletown, CT 06457

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge passage of the National Popular Vote Compact, HB 5434 and SB 9. I am concerned that under our current winner takes all allotment of electoral votes, in states where there is a higher proportion of voters to electors, each citizen's vote carries less weight than in states where the proportion is lower. This strikes me as unfair, and I have yet to hear any compelling argument as to why this method of electoral allotment is relevant today.

When I was in high school, I remember learning in political science class that through the Electoral College, a candidate could win the presidency without winning the popular vote. At the time, I had the sense that this was more of an academic oddity than something I would ever witness. The possibility seemed remote to my classmates and me. Yet now it has happened twice in recent memory and can no longer be dismissed as a fluke.

I regret now that I never paid more attention to this quirk of the system because it seemed like such a remote possibility. Weighting the votes of different Americans differently feels fundamentally un-American to me. I suspect that the system has persisted this long because other Americans have also been asleep to the potential ramifications. As Americans, we pride ourselves on our democratic institutions and equal protection under the law, yet the current Electoral College system undermines this pride. In reality, we do not have democratically elected presidents, and all votes do not carry equal weight.

Of particular concern in a state like Connecticut is the fact that solid blue or red states are overlooked each election cycle. Not only are some people's votes less important to the candidates, but whole states are taken for granted. This does not encourage voter participation.

I believe that active voter participation and fair and equal representation of every American should be goals that Americans on both sides of the current political chasm can agree upon. Please take this step towards leveling the playing field in presidential elections and pass HB 5434 and SB 9. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marina Cramer, attorney turned stay at home mom