

February 21, 2017

Dear Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 5434. I am not able to attend the public hearing on Wednesday. I live in Glastonbury.

I am tired of my vote not counting. Connecticut is a small state; we just don't matter to Presidential candidates. The only voters who matter are those who live in the large swing states. The presidential candidates cater to those states. In a democracy, every vote should matter equally. The winner- take- all Electoral College distorts the will of the people.

The electoral college is an outmoded system. The popular vote is used in every other election: Congress, state and town elections. It works well in those elections. The Interstate Compact is a way to restore trust in our electoral system. It gives more people a reason to vote for President; their vote will actually matter.

In recent years we have seen two elections where the candidate who won the popular vote did not win the presidency. This is wrong. The United States prides itself on being the leading world democracy; yet we do not have a democratically elected President.

It is virtually impossible to abolish the Electoral College in the current political climate. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a way to achieve the right result – that every vote counts equally. Under the Compact, all of the participating states' electoral votes are cast for the candidate who wins the most popular votes in all 50 states. The Compact takes effect once states possessing 270 electoral votes, the number required to elect the President, have joined. To date 10 states plus D.C. have joined the Compact, representing 165 electoral votes, more than half the votes needed for the Compact to go into effect. Connecticut should be part of this Compact.

I urge you to vote "yes" on HB 5434. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/Jessica Eastman/  
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