

TO: The Hon. Michael McLachlan and The Hon. Gary Winfield (Co-Chairs) and The Hon. Rep. Laura Devlin, Fairfield

CC: Rep. Jack Hennessy, Sen. Marilyn Moore

FROM: Mrs. Gail E Janensch, Bridgeport CT / Board Member League of Women Voters of Connecticut

**SUBJECT: FULL SUPPORT FOR HB5434 TO EMPOWER CT TO JOIN THE NPV INTERSTATE COMPACT**

Thank you for hearing my testimony regarding how our nation should elect our President.

Connecticut is a small state with therefore a small number of delegates to the Electoral College. Our state gave a majority of our popular vote in 2016 to the Democratic Party candidate for President of the United States, but our candidate lost to the Republican Presidential Candidate by vote of the Electoral College by just a few Electoral votes. Yet in the National Popular Vote, the Democratic Party Candidate that Connecticut voters supported won by two million NATIONAL votes. This was the second time in my lifetime of 74 years that this happened. I believe the Electoral Collage, created long, long ago, in today's world is no longer necessary or fair.

Your support for HB5434 could put our country on a path to a more fair and democratic footing. When the Electoral College was created our nation did not have instant communications whereby the will of voters from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean can be well known to adults in every small town and block of our biggest cities. Now we are more completely "one nation" from sea to shining sea. Yes, voters may have very different political points of view and support a Presidential candidate sharing his or her beliefs. But whether a voter lives in a different state, near or far from another state, should not matter as much as the actual vote total for President of the "United States," with emphasis on the phrase within quotation marks!

The League of Women Voters of the United States has a well-considered position in support of using national popular vote to elect our nation's president and our Connecticut Chapter is part of LWVUS.

I ask you to vote to join the Compact that will come into effect when states with a total of 270 Electoral College votes have signed on to the Compact. When this happens, it guarantees that the winner of the popular vote is declared the winner of the Electoral College vote. Please put our small state into the needed 270 Electoral College votes!

Rep. Hennessy and Sen. Moore, I ask you to reply to me with your own position regarding HB5434.

Thank you all.

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