

IN SUPPORT OF: The National Popular Vote Compact, HB 5434

Dear *Representatives of the Government Administration and Elections Committee*

I am writing to this Committee **in support of HB 5434** because I cannot attend in person. Your Committee has already demonstrated bi-partisan support and has **recommended this bill for approval four times**. The Governor has aligned with leaders in both Parties in support of **HB 5434**. This has been adopted by 10 states and the District of Columbia. The people of Connecticut deserve an equal vote with other States in deciding who assumes our presidency in a national election. Currently a small handful of battleground states get to elect the nation's president. We in Connecticut are mere spectators in the process. Post-election, those same battleground states receive a higher proportion of presidentially controlled or influenced grants.¹ Candidates know where their bread is buttered and which states are NOT worth their time or their "ear". Connecticut MUST get into play! Too much is at stake! In the current state-by-state winner-takes-all philosophy, the people of Connecticut and the other predictably "Red" AND "Blue" states are, in essence, disenfranchised. In Connecticut, a traditionally blue state, the votes and views of our Republican voters have been basically unheard. Why should all the bi-partisan voices of the people of Connecticut be of lesser value than those of a mere handful of states that can be swayed by political pandering of one Party or the other to obtain their votes in a Presidential election? It is not right! I would not be surprised if this is a factor in why many in Connecticut do not come out to vote! Their popular vote means nothing. Using the National Popular Vote results in elections would better represent the views of Connecticut voters across the political spectrum. **I urge you to "Put Connecticut First" and support the National Popular Vote Compact, HB 5434.**

I am Board Certified in Public Health and CEO of a Public Health Consulting firm. I've been in practice for 48 years. I am keenly aware of the inter-dependency of people, the environment, national/global health, our economic underpinnings, and the inter/multi-cultural relationships of the people who reside in our state. These same principles apply between States as they do within the Great State of Connecticut. The **National Popular Vote Compact, H.B. 5434**, is an agreement among states to award their Electoral College votes to the winner of the National Popular Vote. Accordingly, the person selected by the majority of U.S. voters would become the elected President of these great United States. A presidential candidate would be voted in or out by ALL the people of the country. It is **bi-partisan** as this could impact a Democratic candidate equally with a Republican one. Of relevance, this action is already within the four corners of the Constitution and would not necessitate an amendment. The Constitution already gives states the power to appoint Electors, "in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct". As a strong supporter of Democracy, regardless of political affiliation, I know this is important. I have voted on both sides of the aisle over many decades because I always put America first in my candidate selections at every level. Too much is at stake!

Electronically signed:

Stephanie R. Paulmeno, MS, RN, NHA, CPH, CCM, CDP/ 02-20-2017

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¹ Hudak, John, Brookings Institute Fellow. Brookings Institution Press. Presidential Pork. Washington DC. February 27, 2014
The analysis showed that battleground states receive 7.3-7.6% more in grant funding.