

—YALE COLLEGE—
DEMOCRATS

Testimony of Michelle Peng
Vice President, Yale College Democrats
06511

February 20, 2017
68 High st., #B42
New Haven, CT

In favor: H.B. 5434/S.B. 9
An Act Entering Connecticut Into the National Popular Vote Compact

Dear Chairs and Members of Government Administration of Elections Committee,

As an active member of the College Democrats here at Yale, I was crushed by the November 8th results. After months of working for a candidate I believed in, my efforts failed to pay off. The majority of electoral votes went to a candidate who went against my values and the values of my loved ones. The loss stung even more as the popular vote margin continued to widen in Hillary Clinton's favor.

The result was shocking not just as a Democrat but also as a first time voter and a young person engaged in politics and government. National Popular Vote is not a partisan issue. In my lifetime, the electoral college has failed multiple times to deliver the will of the American people. In our current system, citizens' votes are not counted equally. Some are valued more by virtue of geography. This imbalance elevates swing states' importance in the eyes of politicians, directing the flow of grant money and campaign trail attention. The National Popular Vote Compact corrects these instances of inequality and ensures a more democratic government aligned with the ideals of our country.

Having grown up in Arkansas, I understand critics' fears that the National Popular Vote Compact will diminish the importance of rural voices. However, this is true in the current system and will actually be mitigated if the National Popular Vote Compact goes into effect. Currently, the electoral college harms both predominantly rural and predominantly urban states. States like Arkansas are left out of campaign activity and deals securing grant money--privileges swing states enjoy under the electoral college system. The only way to elevate these voices is to stop ignoring non-swing state voters and start counting their votes equally.

Sincerely,
Michelle Peng