



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in opposition to
HB 5205, HB 5434, HB 5435, HB 5736, and SB9
Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 22, 2017

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator McLachlan, Senator Winfield, Representative Fox; Ranking Member Representative Devlin; and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am testifying in opposition of the five bills which would have Connecticut join the National Popular Vote Compact: HB 5205, HB 5434, HB 5435, HB 5736, and SB 9.

Many advocates of the National Popular Vote cite the importance of every person's individual vote. For them, I ask, how can you be in favor of one person one vote if you are willing to ignore the will of an entire state?

After all, Connecticut could someday be in a position where we have voted en masse for a presidential candidate who is defeated soundly by a majority of individuals across the country. How do the votes of Connecticut residents count in a case like that?

We should remember that we live in a representative republic and one based on the principle of individual liberty. We are also a country that is made up of individual states who entered into a union voluntarily and with the understanding that they would retain their sovereignty to govern as states.

These bills effectively eliminate state sovereignty and nullify votes.

It would also effectively weaken the individual political power and identity of the states – causing them to be adversely impacted by policies that favor only population centers and potentially at their expense.

Imagine how politics would change if politicians and Presidents in particular only paid attention to population centers and wrote policy specifically to pander to different groups within them. That is a long way from valuing the individual choice of each citizen.