

TO: GAE Committee of the CT General Assembly
FROM: Gail Shea 197 River Road, Pawcatuck, CT
DATE: February 17, 2017

RE: TESTIMONY in FAVOR of five (5) Proposed bills that advocate adopting the **interstate compact for the election of president and vice president of the U.S.: Proposed H.B. No. 5434**

5435

5736

5205

Proposed S.B. No. 9

All of these proposed bills appear to be in basic agreement that CT should join with many other states, including Rhode Island and MA, in becoming part of the interstate compact so that Connecticut's electoral votes go to the presidential (and vice presidential) candidate that wins the national popular vote. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) ensures that EVERY vote counts in the national election.

Most states, like CT, have the "winner-take-all" system whereby the candidate that gets the most votes in a state, gets all the electoral votes from that state. So if a candidate wins by 1 vote, he/she gets all the state's electoral votes while the candidate that loses by 1 vote gets none. Waiting to distribute the electoral votes until the national results are in ensures all votes count. It is a fairer way to run an election and is in compliance with the directives of the U.S. Constitution.

I noticed that the summary provided on line for Proposed Senate bill No. 9 includes the notion that the national popular vote compact is in opposition to the Electoral College. This is a bit of a misunderstanding. First there is no Electoral College, at least in any legal sense. It is everyday parlance that refers to all the electors that exist in every state. And, if the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is put into operation, the electors would continue. Some would, however, be voting differently. Without a change in the U.S. Constitution, the electors remain.

Please develop a committee bill on this, in line with the wording used by the already existing compact states, so it can be voted on, and hopefully passed, by the full house and senate.

Thank you.