

## Testimony of Tom Swan

### Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

In Support of Proposed H.B. No. 5205 AAC An Agreement Among the States to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote, Proposed H.B. No. 5434 AA Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote, Proposed H.B. No. 5435 AAC Election of the President of the United States by National Popular Vote, Proposed S.B. No. 9 AA Entering Connecticut into the National Popular Vote Compact, HB 6575 AAC Disclosure of Presidential Candidates' Federal Tax Returns, and opposing SB 108, SB 133, SJ 11

February 24, 2014

Good Afternoon Senator Winfield, Senator McLaughlin, Representative Fox, and other members of the GAE Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of CCAG's member families I want to thank you for raising several bills related to the National Popular Vote Compact and urge its passage.

CCAG supports the National Popular Vote compact because it is the best way to ensure that the basic principle of one person one vote is respected. Throughout the history of the United States reforms have been enacted to help us better live up to democratic ideals on which we were founded. These have included winning the right to vote for women, the Voting Rights Act, direct elections of Senators, and granting 18 year olds the right to vote to name a few. The NPV compact will ensure that all votes will count the same when choosing a president regardless of where we live.

We believe we need to act because the Constitution state should lead in protecting the integrity of our votes, but also of votes throughout the country.

Connecticut has our own history of advancing changes that strengthen the idea of one person one, one vote. Recent examples include enactment of a direct primary system and the passage of our landmark Citizens Election Program.

We oppose SB 108 AA Proportionally Awarding the State's Electoral College Votes for President and Vice President of the United States, SB 133 AAC the Electoral Vote Attributed to the State's Second Congressional District and SJ No. 11 Resolution Recognizing the Current Electoral College System As The Best Way to Elect the President of the United States. These proposals would make a bad system worse and should be rejected.

We also urge your support for HB 6575 AAC Disclosure of Presidential Candidates' Federal Tax Returns. This bill would force presidential candidates to disclose their taxes in to gain access to the ballot in CT. It is unconscionable that the public has no idea as to the conflicts of interest that our President has and this legislation will help ensure it never happens again.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to pass these vital pieces of legislation.