

February 19, 2017

**IN SUPPORT OF : THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT,  
HB5434**

Dear Representatives of the Government Administration and  
Elections Committee:

I am writing to provide testimony in support of HB5434/SB9.d

I strongly believe that every vote in the United States of America matters and that the President of the United States should be elected through a system where every individual's vote is counted. The President of the United States should represent every American equally, regardless of race, gender, religion, political views or home state. Under our current system of counting votes, that is not the case. As a result of the present method of Electoral College voting, not all votes in Connecticut count (or matter) and a vote in Connecticut is not worth as much as votes in other states.

Moreover, when a state is reliably blue or red, presidential candidates have no incentive to campaign in those states. Instead, candidates spend the majority of their time in battleground states. States like Connecticut are ignored. And being ignored has consequences. Battleground states receive more federal grant money as candidates court their voters.

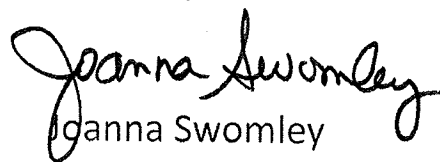
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In fact, the Constitution is silent on how states should allocate their electoral votes. The current "winner take all" practice of EC vote allocation was a partisan legislative action undertaken to benefit the majority party in that state. Under this practice, the candidate with the most votes does not necessarily win. That is not a democracy.

Think about this: If you were asked to be an election observer and were sent to another country to observe the integrity of the vote in that country, and someone told you that after the election, rather than counting up all of the votes and making the victor the president, another group was going to take a separate vote and put the loser into power, *you would not certify that election*. Yet that is precisely what is going on in the United States under our current system. Twice in recent history, the candidate with the most number of votes did not become President. That is outrageous.

I am writing today to support HB 5434/SB9 and ask that you put Connecticut back on the electoral map by passing the national popular vote legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Joanna Swomley