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Dear Senator Flexer, Senator McLachlan, Representative Fox and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 5421 allowing Connecticut to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The Compact is a nonpartisan solution to make everyone's vote for president matter, and to make the winner the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide. Candidates rarely campaign in Connecticut. I want our votes to matter!

The Compact has already been joined by 10 states and the District of Columbia with 165 electoral votes, including Connecticut's neighbors Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. These 11 jurisdictions have 61% of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the Compact and elect the president by the national popular vote. Connecticut would add seven more.

This really should not be a partisan issue. It is simply common sense, at this point in our history, that we elect all other representatives by one person, one vote, and this should apply to the President of the United States! As Martin Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore, said at the recent Democratic caucus press conference, "I fully reject the notion that the citizens of America in 2018 cannot be trusted to directly elect their president." The bill has a great deal of momentum and support behind it and I am hopeful that this is the year we can make it happen.

A new poll of Connecticut voters by Making Every Vote Count (MEVC) found that 92% of Democrats, 76% of unaffiliated voters, and 62% of Republicans support electing the president by national popular vote.

Please vote YES for HB 5421.

With sincere thanks,

Leslee Asch-Morrison
Old Greenwich