

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Testimony in Support of HB 5421

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I am writing in support of HB 5421. Under the current system of distributing our Electoral College votes, Connecticut voters are disenfranchised. Both parties take for granted that our "blue" state will vote for the Democratic candidate for president, which results in near-zero campaigning in our state, even though candidates make frequent visits for fundraising purposes; we are little more than an electoral ATM under the current system.

If Connecticut joins the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and the compact ultimately goes into effect, every vote in Connecticut will count, Democratic and Republican. Candidates will be compelled to campaign for the 41% of the state's Republican voters who were not represented in the Electoral College at all, as well as the 54% of the state's Democratic voters who were arguably over-represented. The case for voting at all, in a context where everyone's vote counts equally, is more compelling. And ultimately, the basic principles of democracy are better demonstrated when the system is truly reflective of "one person, one vote."

Thank you for your attention. I hope this committee will affirm its support of every Connecticut voter's right to be heard equally and send HB 5421 to the full legislature for a vote.

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