

Co-chairs Fox, Flexer, McLachlan, and distinguished members of the GAE Committee:

My name is Charles W. Dahlberg, I am from West Simsbury, and I am testifying in support of proposed House Bill No. 5421, An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President by National Popular Vote.

There are several reasons why I ask for passage of this bill.

The first is that it will allow the true democratic ideal that the candidate with the most votes should be president. The time is long over that he, or she, who receive the most votes should be denied that position. In a word, this is not only fair, it is right, and it is just.

A second reason is that its passage will force all candidates to address more concerns of more people nationwide. The president represents the entire country, and therefore should be attentive of, and responsive to, as large as possible a cross section of the populace while campaigning. This attention will invariably result in beneficial results for that populace should the candidate be elected.

Thirdly, certain groups within the populace at a state level will no longer be either ignored, nor taken for granted, by any of the candidates. I cite Connecticut as a prime example. When was the last time a Republican nominee campaigned in this state, other than to raise money? I can't remember either, and that's because the Republican nominee could see no hope in winning Connecticut's electoral votes under the current system. Now of course a Republican nominee campaigning here would probably not win many Democratic votes; but under the National Popular vote all of Connecticut's Republican voters would count, and you can bet that would bring the Republican nominee in to campaign for, and listen to, Connecticut's Republican voters.

I could go on, but rather would like to end my three minute allotment by asking the committee members to vote yes on House Bill 5421 and to thank them for their time and attention.