

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

Please accept this email as testimony in support of HB 5421, the bill to have Connecticut join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

As an educator and parent, I am hopeful that our next generation will participate in our government. The most basic way to participate in government is by voting. Most people's first exposure to the political process is the first time they cast a vote for President.

In Connecticut as in most states in the nation, it is frustrating and discouraging to know that one's vote for President does not really matter, because most states very predictably assign their electoral votes to the candidate of the same party every year. In some states this is the Democrat, and in some states this is the Republican, but the consistency year to year is a huge problem for our democracy. If your state 'always votes Republican', why should you, as a member of either party, show up to vote for President. And of course the consequences for all down-ballot offices when we lose presidential voters are significant.

Please help us change the rules so that our votes for President matter again. Please support HB 5421, adding Connecticut to the interstate compact to elect our leader by national popular vote.

Sincerely,

Diane Stock

Haddam