

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

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 5421, An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact To Elect The President By Popular Vote.

My name is Michael Duffek, and my address is 7 Barkledge Drive, Newington CT 06111. I believe that HB 5421 should be passed. I believe it is essential that all citizens have the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Abraham Lincoln's quote, "Democracy is direct self-government, over all the people, by all the people, for all the people," is more applicable now than ever. To remain true to this ideal, we need to have every vote count. The current system of electing the president stems from state laws that award all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each separate state. Because of these state winner-take-all statutes, presidential candidates have no reason to pay attention to the issues of concern to voters in states where the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

I want my vote to matter. I want my family and friends' votes to matter. I want every American citizen's vote to matter. I want the president to be elected because the majority of Americans want it. America is the home of the free - we should be free to vote as we choose, and to have our votes matter. I believe that passage of HB 5421 is the logical and appropriate way to make this a reality.

"...by all the people, for all the people." Let's make this a reality. Please vote to approve HB 5421.

Respectfully,

Michael Duffek  
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