

Dear Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Adam Eichen. I am a democracy researcher and the co-author of *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want* (Beacon Press, 2017), coauthored with Frances Moore Lappé. I am also a Connecticut registered voter.

I have spent the last two years studying the state of our democracy. Needless to say, it is in peril. Assaults on democratic norms, the influx of big money in politics, and the proliferation of voter suppression laws have crippled American faith in government—and rightfully so. Citizens feel alienated from politics, a phenomenon very difficult to heal. That two of the last three presidents lost the popular vote has greatly exacerbated this problem.

The good news is for every anti-democratic policy passed, there are pro-democracy solutions for which we can advocate. National Popular Vote is one of these pro-democracy policies. In *Daring Democracy*, we wrote about how National Popular Vote is an innovative and realistic work-around to the Electoral College. I stand by this assessment.

I therefore support the Act Adopting an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote. I urge the committee to support HB 5421. The nation needs Connecticut to be a democracy leader. Adopting national popular vote is a step in the right direction and will likely encourage other states to follow suit.

Thank you for your time,
Adam
Norwalk, CT