

Testimony in support of H.B. 5421

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

My name is Ashley Gaudiano, I am from Trumbull. I am testifying in support of H.B. 5421, An Act Adopting The Interstate Compact To Elect The President By National Popular Vote.

In every election around our country, and every election here in Connecticut, officials are elected by popular vote. That is, every election except the President. In arguably the most important election, we revoke the rights of the people to choose their leader, and instead implement an electoral system that, in two of the last five presidential races, circumvents the wishes of voters.

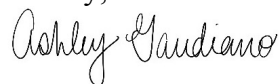
Currently, roughly ten states determine the election. Connecticut isn't one of them. Residents of non-swing states, including Connecticut, are simply observers of the election. With the National Popular Vote Compact, every person's vote would matter, regardless of whether they live in a so-called 'swing state.' Voting for H.B. 5421 means that we are one step closer to giving every voter in Connecticut, regardless of political affiliation, a true say in the election of our President.

In a 2009 Public Policy Polling survey of Connecticut voters, three-quarters of Democrats and two-thirds of Republicans agreed that the President should be the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states. In a 2017 nationwide survey conducted by Make Every Vote Count, 7 of 10 U.S. adults favored a national popular vote. This is a non-partisan issue.

As a student of the law and licensed attorney, I have also looked at this from a legal perspective. The Constitution leaves it up to the states to decide how to vote their electors, stating, "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors." The Compact does not abolish the Electoral College. Instead, it provides states with a different way to vote their electors.

I believe in the people of Connecticut and I believe in their ability to elect the leader they see fit – but we have to give them that right. We have to support and champion one person, one vote. Just like we do in every other election. By passing H.B. 5421, you all have the opportunity to invest in the people of Connecticut. I urge you to vote yes on H.B. 5421. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Warmly,



Ashley Gaudiano