

**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Public Hearing – Monday March 19, 2018**

**Testimony on**

**SB 408        An Act Entering Connecticut Into The National Popular Compact**

**HB 5421      An Act Adopting The Interstate Compact To Elect The President Of The  
United States By National Popular Vote**

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

Good day. My name is Peter Gostin and I am submitting testimony in opposition to the two raised bills above.

Some observations regarding the Electoral College system:

- 1) The Founders incorporated many principles into one institution -- i.e federalism, republicanism and democracy.
- 2) One-person, one-vote was rejected by the Founders as it was never their intention to create a pure democracy. This is why we have a representative form of government.
- 3) Today, with underground actors and nefarious methods involved with electronic hacking, the Electoral College protects the country from such hacking in that it is extremely difficult to infiltrate and corrupt all 50 state elections. Because of the decentralization of so many state elections, any attempt to hack into even a couple of different election systems to alter enough votes to swing an election would require an effort on a scale so massive that the current process simply renders such a subversion extremely unlikely. By adopting a purely national vote system, however, hacking can become far easier as only a few large metropolitan areas of the country would need to be compromised to alter an election.
- 4) If the state legislature wants to change the way our state allocates its' seven (7) Electoral College votes, a better way may be to apportion these votes based on the total vote for the winning candidate against the total votes cast -- i.e. 50% -- 65% wins 4 votes; 66% -- 80% wins 5 votes; 81% - 95% wins 6 votes.

I do not prescribe to NPV's premise that Connecticut should award its' Electoral College votes in favor of the national vote winner. If this compact were in place during the 2004 presidential election then Connecticut's Electoral College votes would not have been awarded to John Kerry but rather George W. Bush, as Bush had won the popular vote.

For the above reasons I urge you to oppose SB 408 and HB 5421.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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