

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

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 5421, the bill to have Connecticut join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The Compact is a nonpartisan solution to make everyone's vote for president matter—regardless of whether they live in blue, red or battleground states.

Every election in this country is decided by popular vote except for the office of the President. Why is this the case?

The electoral college was created at a time in this country when Black Americans was viewed as property and three-fifths of a person and women could not vote. Slavery has been abolished, we no long few black people as fractions of a person, and women have the right to vote. Yet the Electoral College remains and so does its racially tinged history.

The current system allows a minority of voters to impose imperial rule on the majority. That is not a democracy by the people and for the people.

It's time for our state to join the interstate compact and let every vote count, the way it should have always been.

Sincerely,

Leanne Harpin

Fairfield CT