

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.

My kids are both in middle school and after this last election have asked how we can claim to live in a democracy when the president is elected by the electoral college, and not by the votes of individual citizens. I am unable to give them a coherent answer because I agree with them. I would like to see the president elected the same way you are – in a manner in which every vote matters and the candidate with the most votes wins.

I think the framers of the constitution believed the ordinary rabble had to be saved from themselves, but who is to say that one person's reasons for choosing one candidate over another are more or less valid?

It seems as if a majority of CT voters agree with me. Making Every Vote Count did a survey in 2018 that found that overall, 78% (including 62% of Republicans, 92% of Democrats and 76% of Independents) agree that the candidate who wins the most votes nationwide should become president.

I believe that every state should matter in an election. It is such a ridiculous political game that is played now, and CT is not a part of the equation. If you pass the National Popular Vote Compact, H.B. 5421, each and every vote would count and maybe we'd even get a candidate to visit us here! The presidential election shouldn't be limited to battleground states like Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Please do the right thing for Connecticut and the nation and pass H.B. 5421.

Respectfully,

Lauren Henry
Norwalk, CT