

Testimony
Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 19, 2018

H.B. 5421

**AN ACT ADOPTING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE**

Submitted by

Rhea Klein, Ph.D.
Bolton, CT Resident

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.

I'm a concerned Connecticut voter who supports An Act Adopting and Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote because I believe that everyone's vote should count equally and that all states and citizens are given the attention and benefits that comes with the value of a counted vote. Under the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes, voters in Connecticut and other reliably blue or red states receive little if any attention during the general election. For example, of nearly 400 campaign events during the presidential campaign, 94 percent were held in just 12 states; only one was held in Connecticut (The 11 states that will determine the 2016 election; Politico 6/8/2016). Furthermore, more benefits are disproportionately allocated to swing states by Congress and the serving president.

I am not alone in my desire to join the National Popular Vote Compact. According to the a poll of Connecticut voters commissioned by Making Every Vote Count (MEVC), a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, 92 percent of Democrats, 62 percent of Republicans and 76 percent of Independents believe the winner of the national popular vote should be elected President of the United States. This survey of Connecticut voters was conducted between January 23 through January 30, 2018. Sentiment of this magnitude should insure that State Congressional Representatives vote to pass this bill this year as the majority of their constituents supports this bill.

In conclusion, it has been nine years since this bill was introduced on January 25, 2009, and 11 states plus the District of Columbia have legislatively signed onto the compact. I believe that if citizens know that candidates must give equal weight to every vote cast in the United States regardless of geographic location, there will be more incentive to register, become informed, and to vote in the presidential elections. This increased participation will bring Americans together to form a true consensus supporting the person popularly elected as President.

Respectfully,
Rhea Klein, Ph.D.
4 Bayberry Road
Bolton, CT 06043