

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

I am writing in support of HB 5421 to place Connecticut in the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact ("NPV"). I support this bill because I believe our country needs to honor the vote of everyone who participates in the voting for president.

This bill and the NPV will help resolve a number of presidential campaign issues that are troubling to me. First, every vote should count and no voter should stay home because they believe their vote doesn't matter. The office of president is the only one where a candidate who does not get the most votes can win. The winner of the popular vote is the one who should take office.

NPV, while not a panacea, addresses some crucial shortcomings in the way our president is elected, while preserving the Electoral College and working within the rights granted to each state. The current electoral college practice not only gives a few so-called "swing states" inordinate power to determine the presidential election results, but also skews the investment of campaign dollars and media and candidate attention to those states. CT is a loser in this process. Further, the "winner take all" method of allocating electoral college votes does a disservice to voters by discounting the votes for the losing candidate in such a state.

You have the backing of a majority of CT voters, across party lines, to pass this bill, with overall 78%, including 62% of Republicans, supporting NPV in a poll by Making Every Vote Count, February 2018. Let's make every vote count, as the majority of voters want, and have Connecticut take a leadership role as it has on so many important issues.

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