

**Christine Palm
29 East Liberty St.
Chester, CT 06412**

March 18, 2018

TESTIMONY of Christine Palm

RE: HB 5421: AA ADOPTING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

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

Thank you for considering my support of HB 5421, the non-partisan solution to our current unfair and skewed method of electing the president of the United States.

For 44 years, I have had the privilege of voting for our president; a right and a responsibility I have never taken lightly. The first president I could legally vote for was Jimmy Carter. Because I was in South Korea at the time of the election (1976), I sent my vote in by absentee ballot. The morning after the election, I got into a cab and was asked by the cab driver, "Now that you have a new president, will you be allowed to return home?"

He could not fathom why an American would travel to his country except as a political exile. Too few Americans realize what a privilege it is to be free to vote for the candidate of one's choice. And yet, the outmoded Electoral College system has disenfranchised many potential voters who have come to believe their vote will not count.

Since a Constitutional Amendment is unlikely in my lifetime, I believe the NPV compact is the best, most sensible and equitable compromise.

Please help Connecticut join the other 10 states (and the District of Columbia) in joining this compact. Whether we live in a "blue," "red," or battleground state, all voices should be heard when it comes to making the monumental decision concerning our national Executive Branch leader.

Sincerely,

Christine Palm
Chester, Connecticut