



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT C. SAMPSON**  
EIGHTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
rob.sampson@housegop.ct.gov

**RANKING MEMBER**  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

#### Testimony

S.B. 408 An Act Entering Connecticut into the National Popular Compact  
H.B. 5421 An Act Adopting The Interstate Compact To Elect The President Of The United States By National Popular Vote  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
March 19, 2018

Chairman Fox; Co-Chairs McLachlan and Winfield; Vice Chairs Frantz, Slossberg, and Winkler; Ranking Member Devlin; and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in opposition to S.B. 408 An Act Entering Connecticut into the National Popular Compact

First things first, the distinction needs to be made that no state legislature, including Connecticut, can enact a National Popular Vote. That can only be achieved by an Amendment to the US Constitution, not a majority vote of one state legislature.

We are instead talking about legislation to join a “compact,” basically an agreement with other states to give our electoral votes away based on the total of votes across the country.

Many advocates of the National Popular Vote cite the importance of every person’s individual vote. For them, I ask, how can you be in favor of one person one vote if you are willing to ignore the will of an entire state?

In making this law, Connecticut could someday be in a position where we have voted overwhelmingly for a presidential candidate who is defeated soundly by a majority of individuals across the country and still have to award our electoral votes against the will of our own constituents. How do the votes of Connecticut residents supposedly count in a case like that?

We should remember that we live in a representative republic based on the principle of individual liberty. We are also a country that is made up of individual states who entered into a

union *voluntarily* and with the understanding that they would retain their sovereignty to govern as themselves as individual states.

It would also effectively weaken the individual political power and identity of the states – causing them to be adversely impacted by policies that favor only population centers and potentially at their expense. Imagine how politics would change if politicians and Presidents, in particular, only paid attention to population centers and wrote policy specifically to pander to different groups within them. That is a long way from valuing the individual choice of each citizen.

This proposal effectively eliminates state sovereignty and nullify votes, not to mention diminish the role of state government. I urge the committee to reject it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sampson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Sampson  
State Representative, 80<sup>th</sup> District.