

March 16, 2018

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

I am submitting this testimony to express my support for the **National Popular Vote Bill**, H.B. 5421. Every person's vote should be equal, regardless of where they live.

I believe that, in a democracy, every vote should matter equally and the nation's leader should be the candidate who wins the most popular votes. Under the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes, this isn't the way modern presidential elections work.

Because most states, including Connecticut, are reliably blue or red, candidates have little incentive to campaign beyond the 10 or so "battleground" states. Of nearly 400 campaign events during the 2016 general election, 94 percent were held in just 12 states; only one was held in Connecticut. The distortions of the winner-take-all method thwart the will of the people. In two of the past five elections, the candidate elected president received fewer popular votes than the loser.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an elegant way to ensure that every vote cast for president matters equally, without having to abolish the Electoral College. Under the Compact, all of the participating states' electoral votes are cast for the candidate who wins the most popular votes in all 50 states. The Compact takes effect once states possessing 270 electoral votes, the number required to elect the President, have joined. To date 10 states plus D.C. have joined the Compact, representing 165 electoral votes, more than half the votes needed for the Compact to go into effect.

Please support the National Popular Vote bill so that every vote matters equally when we elect our President.

Thank you.
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