

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED HB 5421

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT TO INCLUDE CONNECTICUT

March 17, 2018

I am Ann Speyer, 13 Audubon St., New Britain.

I am hereby supporting passage of Proposed HB 5421. I would like to share with you, as secretary of the New Britain Democratic Town Committee, the information that at the December 2016 meeting of the New Britain Democratic Town Committee, there was discussion followed by a unanimous endorsement of Connecticut's adoption of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. There was strong support raised for changing the manner in which our presidential vote is conducted to use the popular vote of the whole nation to guide our electors. A year later, we are still waiting for the vote which will include Connecticut in the NPV compact. We ask you to make it happen!

It is time for us to update our voting system to match the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have now watched several elections in which the outcome of the election did not match the popular vote. It is leading to disillusionment with our system of government; people feel that their votes just don't count anymore. And under the Electoral College system, they have a point! The present Electoral College system is outdated. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, communication was limited, education was limited, transportation was very difficult. The Electoral College was created in an answer to these issues. But it also led to a system where those in underpopulated states were given more voting power than those in more populated areas. And it led to a system that could be gamed. In 2016, we again watched as such an election unfolded. We are now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we can communicate nearly instantly; free, public education extends to all voters and transportation for getting people across the country is certainly no longer a problem. The time has come to stop using the Electoral College system of voting. The popular vote is a far more valid mechanism for electing our government. We use it at our local and state levels; we should use it on the federal level. By joining the National Popular Vote Compact, Connecticut will help to make certain that all votes matter and all votes count.

Ann Speyer, Secretary

New Britain Democratic Town Committee

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