

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5421 THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT**

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

My name is Sunny Torres and I am a resident of Harwinton, CT. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 5421, the bill to have Connecticut join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

Since I first learned that the Electoral College made it possible for a person to be elected President of the United States, while losing the popular vote, I have believed it to be an unjust process that undermines our Democratic principles.

Our teachers taught us that the reason for the Electoral College was to even out the playing field for the smaller states or because initially there were vast distances between population centers and it was difficult for people to be well informed on national issues. It was therefore better to have others make an informed decision for them. These are the myths that have been perpetuated by teachers using text books produced for the Texas School System. The real reason is that the Electoral College was created due to slavery. No one likes hearing this. People prefer to believe that the Founding Fathers had high minded reasons for establishing the Electoral College.

The southern slave states found direct election of the president unacceptable. They did not have enough white, male, property owners to win a national election. In order to form the Union the northern states gave in to the slave states demands. This led to the infamous decision that enshrined in the constitution the counting of the enslaved as 3/5 of a person. There were enough people enslaved in Virginia to make that state the California of its time. It is no coincidence that for 32 of the first 36 years of our nation's history under the constitution, white slave owners from Virginia were Presidents of the United States.

The attached article written by the eminent constitutional scholar, Akhil Reed Amar the Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, explains the history of the Electoral College. <http://time.com/4558510/electoral-college-history-slavery/>.

I hope that understanding the origins of this process will help you to support the National Popular Vote Legislation.

Thank you,

Sunny Torres

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