

LAUREN W. WEIGEL

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Via email: gaetestimony@cga.ct.gov

General Administration and Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT

Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 5421

Co-chairs Fox, Flexer and McLachlan and distinguished members of the GAE Committee
GAE Committee,

My name is Lauren Weigel and I am a voting constituent from New Milford, Connecticut. I am testifying in support of proposed House Bill No. 5421, An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President by National Popular Vote.

In my voting lifetime, the decision of who would serve as our president was made twice by the Electors instead of the voters. The first time was a shock, but the second was an insult. In 2016, three million American citizens found that their vote was immaterial, ignored. They used their strongest power, their vote, and the Electors voided it, as if they didn't exist.

I'm frustrated that I was powerless in the last election, but the situation was brought into vivid relief to me on December 12, 2017, when the people of Alabama rose up, got to the polls, and denied office to Roy Moore, in a tidal wave of voter strength. I thought about those people, many black, who went to vote that day. They had power on this day, in a state that has denied it to them in many ways, over many generations. On that day, I became an advocate for the Interstate Compact. Each American citizen should have a valid and equal vote in the election for the President of our nation.

It's also clear that national candidates ignore the voters and the issues of states that are reliably red or blue. Connecticut is short changed in our national representation because of the Electoral College System. We deserve to be seen and heard by our national candidates.

Please vote yes on House Bill 5421. Connecticut's participation in the Interstate Compact to Elect the President by National Popular Vote will ensure that each voter in our state has a voice that is heard. Protecting and highlighting the voices of Connecticut's voters must be considered a fundamental responsibility of our state elected representatives. Connecticut should be on the front lines, part of the coalition that leads our nation forward. Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,



Lauren W. Weigel
