



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony **In Support of H.B. 7392** **Government Administration and Elections Committee** **March 25, 2019**

Dear Co-Chairs Flexer, Fox, Ranking Members Sampson, France and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **H.B. 7392, An Act Concerning Voter Privacy**. This bill will make two important changes to our current law and go a long way to protect the private information of the voters in our state.

If enacted, this bill will redact some of the information from our voter lists such as date of birth and address, which is currently all given out if you order a voter list from our Secretary of State. These pieces of private information make it far too easy to steal someone's identity. Connecticut is the only state in the Nation to allow the commercial sale of voter data. The list will still be available at your local registrar of voters and available for public use.

Many constituents have contacted my office about this issue over the years. Some people have stopped registering to vote because they don't want the state to sell their personal data and be subjected to identity theft. These days, most people make a concerted effort to protect their privacy as they are acutely aware of the dangers of having your information on-line in this digital era. I think we as legislators also need to make an effort to protect and minimize the type of personal identifying information available to the public in general.

I urge the members of the Committee to pass HB 7392 out of Committee and show the voters of our state that we will take a strong stand against identity theft and our voter's privacy. Thank you for your time and consideration.