

Testimony of SNEHA SUNDER of FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL, GRADE 9 in
support of
H.B. No. 7392 - AN ACT CONCERNING VOTER PRIVACY.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
11:00 AM Room 2A

Chairwoman Flexer, Chairman Fox, Vice Chair Haskell, Vice Chair Winker, Ranking Member Sampson, Ranking Member France and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, for the record my name is Sneha Sunder and Fairfield and I am offering this testimony in support of HB 7392.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and the opportunity to submit testimony here today.

The state of Connecticut compromises American democracy by selling voter registration data. Though many Connecticut voters are under the impression that their data is private, the Freedom of Information Act of 1974 allows Connecticut to make voter information public. This data includes a citizen's full name, address, phone number, birthdate, party, and voting history. Organizations who buy this data may use it for commercial marketing and to solicit donations, or even to target the safety and identity of voters.

This age of technology has made it increasingly easier to find a voter's data through an Internet search. When a voter's personal data becomes public, they are susceptible to harassment and discrimination as a result of their political affiliation. Connecticut politicians must take action to protect the data of Connecticut citizens. Otherwise, organizations will target citizens and bias their vote, leaving citizens deterred to vote, fearing the consequences of their information becoming public.

At the crux of American society lies democracy. Democracy functions by giving citizens the opportunity to vote confidentially. It is important that Connecticut protects voter data privacy to preserve the security of its citizens and the prosperity of its democracy.