

Testimony in support of HJ 161: RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

Dear Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

I have lived in CT for nearly 20 years. I am proud to call it home. I have watched as more and more States have made voting more convenient through early voting measures. I am writing in support of HJ 161 because I believe that **it is essential to make voting more convenient** in CT. Because our state Constitution includes language which prohibits early voting, we must first amend the Constitution to enable this discussion to proceed. Should this bill pass, there will be plenty of time to discuss the details. The point is to allow your constituents the opportunity to **weigh in** on whether or not we think our legislators should work to **make voting more convenient**.

By voting yes on this bill you would not actually be voting to change the laws but simply to allow your constituents to have the right to share their opinions with you about early voting. To not let our voices be heard would be to disenfranchise voters.

For those legislators who say that they are in favor of no-excuse absentee ballots and thus we don't need early voting, I would like to remind them that in order to change the laws regarding absentee voting, they first need to amend the Constitution.

Increasing voter turnout means our democracy is more representative, which is actually in everyone's interest. Public opinion on early voting across the US is strong as 39 states allow early voting in some form.

Please vote yes for HJ 161. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Gail Berritt
Westport, CT