

To whom it may concern,

My name is Suzanne Brown, and I'm a first-year member of Yale College Democrats. I'm writing to express my support for HB 161, a resolution to permit early voting and no-excuses absentee voting. Every Connecticut citizen should be able to have their voice heard without restriction; voting is a right, not a privilege. Currently, 39 other states have either early voting, no-excuses absentee voting, or both. Connecticut is not one of them. We should expect our state to do better to support its citizens' voting rights.

Early voting and absentee voting reforms are common sense. Low-income individuals may not be able to afford time off work, whereas elderly and disabled persons may not be able to find a way to the precinct. Alternative voting methods open the window of accessibility to the democratic process, one in which everyone deserves the right to be heard. Plus, the ability to vote early or by absentee would alleviate the long lines at the polls, making it even more convenient for those who do end up physically voting on Election Day.

HB 161 needs Connecticut's support. While the state serves as a progressive leader in some areas, voting rights are an issue where there's much work to be done. Let's begin leading the way.

Thank you,
Suzanne Brown