

March 8, 2019

Chairpersons, Flexer, and Fox, and Committee Members
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Written Testimony in Support of HJR 161, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Dear Chairpersons Flexer, and Fox, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of Bill #HJR 161, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

My name is Lisa Lucarelli Chandler. Although I am a member of TACT Indivisible, Glastonbury, CT, I write this testimony as a voter, wife and grandmother. I am in strong support to Bill #HJR 161.

Laws related to access to the polls should take into consideration the matter of fairness. My family takes our responsibility to vote very seriously. However, our situations compares to those of many of your other constituents. Firstly, I have some health challenges that can be summed up as, "some days are better than others". That one Tuesday in November where I have access to the polls may be just that day that makes for a real challenge to exercise my right to vote.

Another situation we struggle with in our family on voting day is time available in town on voting day. My husband works a regular job as a computer scientist and another as an adjunct professor making for long days. If the class falls on a Tuesday, his access to the polls makes for a very small window of time to vote very early in the morning. His company does not give time off to vote. Those who are retired or in circumstances that allow for flexible schedules have greater access to the polls to cast their vote than those who must be out of town for a majority of the day.

The last situation that I will share to you is one of the most important to me. I have seen the struggles that my daughter, with two toddlers (a two and three year old), has to overcome to vote. Last November with two active little ones, she had to secure a baby sitter who was only available later in the day. She recently moved and thought her voting registration was up to date. After waiting in a long line to vote, she had to go to another location to update her paperwork. This time she had to stand in the rain as she joined others trying to amend their voter registration. She did not wait to the last minute to register, but there was some unexpected paperwork that needed to be completed. She was under pressure to return to relieve the sitter, but was determined to vote which she did. Another consideration is childcare is costly and not always available.

Each of these situations which are common occurrences show why it is important and timely to join 39 states and give us greater access to voting by making it more convenient and more fair to everyone here in CT. I urge you to consider your constituents' wishes, vote in favor of Bill **HJR 161** and allow us to have a say on early voting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lucarelli Chandler, Phone 860-918-3040, Chandllc2@yahoo.com