



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE CONLEY
40TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4009
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
Christine.Conley@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 13th, 2019

Senator Mae Flexer, Chair
Representative Dan Fox, Chair
Government Administration
and Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Election Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor S.J. No. 27 and H.J. No. 161 which would permit no excuse absentee voting. In addition I would like to offer my thoughts on H.B. No. 6055 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN UPDATES TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION LAWS.

I am a supporter of S.J. 27 and H.J. because I firmly believe in making it as easy and simple as possible for people to go out and vote. We have to recognize that having to go vote between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on Election Day, does not work for everyone. Some people have to work during those hours, and others do not have the ability to plan ahead and get an absentee ballot. Furthermore, if the person is going to be in town that day, they are unable to receive an absentee ballot.

A few years ago, I was faced with a similar situation. I was going to be in court on Election Day representing a client in a civil case, and was likely to be working from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Planning for this, I went online to apply for an absentee ballot. As I looked over the form, seeing the viable excuses for requesting an absentee ballot, I realized that none of them applied to me. I know that this story is one of many, and it is unacceptable. We should afford the people the opportunity to vote in these situations, and citizens should not be prevented from exercising this right because they have to work, or have a busy day.

Now, I would like offer my thoughts on H.B. No. 6055. This past election in Groton, we had a situation where 77 Election Day registration ballots were rejected and not counted. I would like this bill to include language requiring training for election officials specific to Election Day

registration. I strongly believe that every person who casts their vote should have their ballot counted, and there have been elections in Groton and across the state where 77 ballots would have changed the outcome of a race. I support retraining of all people involved in Election Day registration in Groton so that this doesn't happen again.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am happy to assist the committee to ensure that we permit no-excuse absentee voting, and we retrain our election officials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Conley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Representative Christine Conley
40th District