

Dear Senator Mae Flexer, Representative Daniel J. Fox and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

Testimony In Support of the Early Voting Amendment – HJ161

I am writing to you as a resident of Branford, Connecticut.

This forwards my written testimony in support of the resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution to allow for early voting and no-excuse absentee voting.

For the past two elections cycles, I have volunteered as a member of the Democratic Town Committee in Branford to greet people at the polls. Both times the same thing happened.

It rained. Hard. Very hard. At the last election, I stood in the rain for four hours – outlasting a teenager who was supporting an opposing candidate. As proof, I offer this photo of myself and another volunteer – taken shortly before the onslaught that destroyed most of our handouts and signs:



The rain was so hard that we watched as several cars circled the parking lot and left. The police officer assigned to the school stayed in his car. We helped several people with walkers and canes get out of their cars and into the building.

I later learned that one of my neighbors, a retired gentleman in his 90's, stayed in the car while his wife went in to vote. He did not feel that he could safely make it to the polling location given the weather and the amount of walking involved. A respected scholar and a refugee from Hitler's Germany, he was very disappointed to miss this opportunity to exercise his right to vote.

This is not necessary. We have so many advances in technology that we now know, days in advance, when it will rain, how much it will rain and when it will stop. However, we do not use this same technology to help people perform the most important task that we can perform as citizens.

I hope you will address this obstacle by **voting yes to support the Early Voting Amendment – HJ161.**

Thank you for your consideration and for all the work you do to make our state better for all its citizens.

Best Wishes,

Susan Dahill

Branford, CT.