

3-9-19

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

I am testifying in support of Bill # HJ 161: Early Voting Amendment.  
My name is Lawrence Edwards PhD. I live in Stamford.

I strongly support this Bill because I firmly believe that the right to vote is a fundamental American right and that we must do all we can to assure that every eligible voter has the opportunity to vote. There is no reason, especially in this age of advanced technology, to allow barriers to voting to persist. We should, as a state, take pride in paving the way for very eligible voter to vote, especially those who may have additional challenges in getting to polling places, such as seniors; disabled veterans and other people with disabilities; and parents.

The benefits of early voting include:

- Greater ease of voting for veterans and others with disabilities, for seniors who are more likely to have challenges getting to a polling place on one specific day, and for busy parents.
- Helping to spread the volume of voters which will reduce stress on the voting system on Election Day
- Early identification and correction of registration errors and voting system malfunction

Most other states have already enacted various forms of expanded access to the process of voting, including early voting. We should not allow our state to lag behind in this important area of fundamental American rights. We need to make it easier for all eligible and registered Connecticut voters to cast a ballot, and thereby strengthen our democracy, giving everyone a voice.

I am asking you to vote yes and support HJ 161 Early Voting Amendment.

I would like to thank the Committee for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Edwards PhD

Stamford, CT