

March 9, 2019

GAE Committee
Connecticut State Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06105

Re: Testimony in support of Early Voting Amendment Bill HJ 161.

Dear Senator Flexner, Rep. Fox, and the Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee:

My name is Patrick Farley from West Hartford and I am submitting testimony in support of the Early Voting Amendment Bill HJ 161. I am a member of IndivisibleCT which is a group of citizens promoting social justice.

I am testifying in support of the Early Voting Amendment Bill HJ 161. An act concerning, or, a resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution to allow for early voting and no-excuse absentee voting.

I believe in making it easier for citizens to vote thereby encouraging more participation in our democracy. The benefit of early voting, i.e. a higher participation rates, far outweigh any possible downsides. Statistically, the chance of voter fraud, and other voting irregularities, occurring is zero.

Early voting would make it:

- Easy for parents, and, for caretakers of young children or elderly parents, who can't vote on the 1st Tuesday of November due to their child, or adult, day-care duties;
- Easy, for workers who cannot afford to lose their wages by taking time off, and, for students who can't miss classes, to vote on the 1st Tuesday in November;
- Easy for senior citizens, or, the disabled, who find it difficult to get to the polls on the 1st Tuesday of November;
- Easy for election officials to resolve potential problems more readily without the pressure of a one day Election Day.

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

Thank you very much for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Farley
38 Brookline Drive
West Hartford, CT 06107