

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Julia Friend and I am a resident of New Haven. I am submitting Testimony in support of the Early Voting Amendment Bill #HJR 161.

Establishing early voting will remove barriers that currently hinder less powerful citizens from voting in elections the results of which greatly affect their lives. Many people can't afford back-up childcare, can't wait on long lines because of health conditions, are penalized at work for taking time off to vote, or don't have transportation to their polling place. These people, by dint of their life experiences, have perspectives that are not represented by other voters. They must be granted the American right to self determination. They must be given the opportunity to make their options felt in the voting booth.

Sincerely
Julia Friend