

Dear Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and the Distinguished members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Philip Hinkes, and I am President of Every Vote Counts Yale. EVC is a national, non-partisan, organization founded in the Spring of 2017 to improve access to the polls and tackle voter apathy. As a student-run organization located on College Campuses, we will always support legislation that makes it easier for college students to vote--and that is why I would like to testify here today about H.J. 161.

College students in, and from, Connecticut have a lot going on in their lives. Between exams, sports teams, extracurriculars, clubs, their faith, and making time for family and friends, they might not always have time to vote. And that's why we are so supportive of Bill H.J. 161. By creating early voting, Bill H.J. 161 gives college student's more time and ease with voting. Moreover, by creating no excuse absentee voting, this bill grants college student additional freedom in voting. It's really that simple.

The idea behind Democracy is to determine which candidate is supported by the most citizens, NOT to test those citizen's ability to navigate bureaucracy or show up on a specific date. Yet so often, our voting system conforms to the latter: long lines, paperwork, and rigid deadlines make voting an ordeal, not a right. While this bill certainly won't solve all our problems, it eliminates many hurdles, and it puts Connecticut closer to a true Democracy.

I truly hope you will support this bill.

Sincerely,  
Philip Hinkes