

March 11, 2019

Chairpersons Flexer and Fox and Committee Members
Government Administration and Election Committees
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairpersons Flexer and Fox and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HR 161, a “Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Voting”.

My name is Jackie Kaiko. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HJR 161.

I commuted NYC for a large global NYC- based bank for over 30 years. During my career I had domestic and foreign clients and I travelled frequently for my work.

Consider this scenario:

“I’m working with my team on a time-sensitive assignment (or maybe I have clients or colleagues in NYC who are in from out-of-town for multiple days of meetings). Election Day is approaching and I can’t predict if I’ll be able to get to the Tolls while they’re open. I didn’t apply for an Absentee Ballot because I couldn’t be sure if my work responsibilities would have me away from Stamford while the Tolls were open. “

Even as a senior manager, circumstances didn’t always permit me to set my own schedule. This scenario can be adjusted to envision all kinds of circumstances and all kinds of people: ones juggling their schedules to accommodate child- or elder-care responsibilities, ones juggling multiple jobs, ones dealing with unpredictable health, etc. For more people to be able to vote, more flexibility is needed.

Not enacting this bill continues practices that unduly restrict voting. It is way overdue for Connecticut to join 40 other states and give greater access to voting by making it more convenient to vote here. I urge you to consider your constituents’ wishes and vote in favor of HJR 161 and allow us to have a say on early voting.

Respectfully,

Jackie Kaiko
Stamford