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Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200  
Hartford, CT 06106

To the Committee:

I write in support of HJ 161: A Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

Our existing system of voting on a single day, during fixed hours, was designed when voting was limited to men of property. It is long since time to acknowledge that this system denies the full and fair exercise of the franchise to many voters, including those caring for small children or the elderly, those working multiple jobs or shifts, and those who must travel for work (sometimes with little or no advance notice).

According to research by the Brennan Center for Justice, early voting not only makes voting more accessible for those who directly use it but also makes election-day voting better by reducing lines at polling places and reducing stress on the voting system.

Connecticut is currently one of only 11 states that has not expanded voting, either through early voting or mail-in ballots. I urge you to support this resolution for a constitutional amendment to institute a voting system that makes voting fair and accessible to all in this state.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kenney