

Testimony in support of HJ 161

Dear Senator Mae Flexer, Representative Daniel J. Fox and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee.

I am Janet Luongo from Norwalk and work with the League of Women Voters and other citizen groups to get out the vote.

I am submitting Testimony (attached) in support of HJ 161: RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

I support early voting and No Excuse Absentee Ballots because I believe that voting is the key activity that makes our democracy vibrant and just. I do the work of making calls and canvassing door to door to let people know when elections near and about the issues. Many times I hear that students are away in other towns and find it difficult to get absentee ballots. Many times I hear that people may be unable to vote because of illness, caring for the sick or for children, or their work hours may not permit them to vote. I hear that people commute and may have to drop off children or do chores before or after work and can't get to the polls. Many people would rather vote on the Saturday or Sunday before, or the week before election day to be sure they get their ballot submitted.

People have been beaten and died fighting for the right to vote, and my father was one of the soldiers who fought in World War II to keep democracy alive. My friends who fought in the Vietnam war were told they had to defend American democracy.

To have a just democracy we need to encourage ALL citizens to vote and to make it EASIER, not harder, for all of us – students, workers, commuters, caregivers, the elderly - to take part in our democracy. Feeling we have a voice, gives us more trust and willingness to work for the good in our country.

Please vote YES for HJ 161. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Janet Luongo
Norwalk, CT