

Testimony in support of Bill #HJR 161, An Act Establishing Early Voting in CT.
GAE Committee

Testimony submitted by:
Joan Means
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To: Distinguished members of the GAE Committee;

I'm writing this testimonial in **strong support of Bill #HJR 161**, an act establishing early voting in CT.

As an American, I take seriously my citizen responsibility to vote in all elections. As a resident of CT I believe in expanding voter participation by making voting easy and accessible to all registered voters.

I have been a resident of CT for my entire life and have voted in almost all elections. There have been a few instances where I was unable to get to the polls on the one voting day allowed. When unable to vote in an election I felt my voice was not heard and my citizen responsibility was unmet. In those instances I would have been able to vote if there had been more opportunities to cast my ballot.

As a working person, having elections only on a work day was challenging as I worked in an agency that provided emergency services. If an emergency arose on voting day I could not leave my job to vote. As a caregiver for my children and later for my parents, there were times when my family responsibilities made it impossible for me to get to the polls on that one day. I was not alone, many of my co-workers, family and friends also had other responsibilities preventing them from getting to the polls at times.

From my own experience and from the many stories I have heard from other CT voters, having options of early voting would provide many of us the opportunity to vote consistently. Our citizen responsibility to vote must be supported by our state providing greater opportunity to get to the polls.

In conclusion I want to thank the members of the GAE committee for hearing my testimony in support of early voting in CT.

Sincerely,
Joan Means
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