

Testimony from Andrew Miano

In Support of:

**House Joint Resolution 161: RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION
TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING**

March 13, 2019

Co-Chairs Flexer and Fox, Ranking Members Sampson and France, and other members of the Government Administration and Elections committee, thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify in favor of House Joint Resolution 161. My name is Andrew Miano and I am currently a student at the University of Connecticut.

In many past election years, including this most recent election, students at UConn were forced to wait hours in line just to be able to have the chance to exercise their right to vote. With the newly implemented election-day registration, many students' long wait was exacerbated by even longer lines to register this past year. Because of this, there were students who were unable to stand in line for several hours on a Tuesday night due to other obligations, and unfortunately could not vote. With the changes this resolution provides, college students will be able to make their way to polling places at any time during the several days of early voting, and will have the opportunity to vote without the time constraints of a school day or rush hour traffic.

There is also a percentage of students, including myself, who choose to retain voting status in their hometown. While there is currently a process for acquiring an absentee ballot, many students are deterred by the strict legal qualifications for requesting one. This resolution would reduce those limitations and so I believe more students would be willing to request absentee ballots. Also, because this process is onerous, having the weekend before Election Day to vote would alternatively allow these students to return to their hometown to vote in person.

I admire the work Secretary of the State Denise Merrill is doing to make voting easier and more accessible to all people. In her words, "Your vote is your voice." So with that in mind, I urge this committee to vote favorably for this measure and allow for everyone's voice to be heard through their vote. Thank you.