

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

My name is Diana Neff and I reside at 235 Stanley Drive in Glastonbury, CT.

I am writing in support of the Early Voting Bill HJ 161

In order for democracy to work best, every eligible voter should be given the opportunity and right to vote. However, because residents of CT only have one day in which to cast their votes, some people are denied the chance to have their voices heard.

There are many instances in which someone may find themselves unable to get to the polls on Election Day in spite of their desire to cast a vote. An individual can wake up ill or be unexpectedly hospitalized. A family emergency could get in the way of making it to the polls, even one's employment can make it impossible to vote on Election Day. A good friend of mine is a nurse who works twelve-hour shifts. On Election Day, 2018, she had to leave for the hospital before the polls opened and did not return home until after they closed. As a result, she was denied the opportunity to exercise her right to vote. I can't help but wonder how many other people have been similarly affected through the years because CT does not have early voting.

Many states in the nation offer early voting so every resident in their states can have adequate opportunity to get to the polls and vote. As a result, residents of those states can be assured that their voices are heard. It makes perfect sense to me that CT should offer its residents the same opportunity to vote. One day is simply not enough time to ensure every eligible voter who wants to vote, can do so!

I urge you and the Committee to vote yeas and support Bill HJ 161

Thank you for your consideration of my request.