



*Helping to restore human dignity and constitutional rights to approximately 5,500 CT citizens.*

**No one should be on a public registry**

**TESTIMONY OF  
ONE STANDARD OF JUSTICE, INC  
SUBMITTED TO  
THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
March 13, 2019**

**To the Co-Chairs, Senator Flexer, Representative Fox and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:**

**Testimony 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.**

One standard of Justice, Inc. supports every effort to enable citizens entitled to vote to be able to cast their votes. This strengthens ALL democratic institutions and benefits ALL citizens of this state and nation.

The world in which we live now, the demands on individuals time and availability to cast their ballots has changed while access to polling places and times has not kept up with the need to expand access. This is especially true of persons who must work several jobs, or have extensive legal requirements that govern their freedom of movement. The persons we represent – persons who are on the registry of those who have committed sexual offenses are particularly affected because of restrictions applied to them.

Therefore One Standard of Justice, Inc. is in full support of House Joint Resolution 161.

- Adopting a minimum early voting standard of at least 15 days of no less than four uniform hours each day in publicly accessible sites;
- Setting standards for the number of voting machines and elections workers to help avoid long voter lines; and
- Accepting voter pre-registration of 16 & 17 year olds.

This will enable more people – whoever they are – to cast their votes, and in particular will empower those on the Registry to participate in the democratic process in the State of Connecticut.

ALL information available supports the concept that empowering persons re-entering society following involvement in the criminal justice system to participate in that society, rather than being isolated and excluded, improves the potential for their successfully

becoming positive contributors to that society. There should be no exclusions, therefore, of persons on the registry, from the benefits of this bill.

*Testimony submitted by the Rev. Andrew G. Osmun, Board Member representing One Standard of Justice, Inc., a volunteer-based civil rights organization committed to ensuring that persons accused or convicted of sex offenses in Connecticut are treated constitutionally and fairly by the state before, during, and after their sentences through the use of evidence-based policies.*