

March 12, 2019

Dear Chairpersons Flexer, and Fox, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HJR 161, a "**Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Voting.**"

My name is Sheila Phelan and I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HJR 161**.

I feel that early voting and other ways to allow citizens to participate in our democracy is critical. Doing everything you can to engage all of your constituents in the electoral process is one of the most important things you can do as elected officials. We will have better and more equitable results in the state if more people can find a way to exercise their right vote. Traffic, unexpected travel, illness, being unable to drive – there are so many reasons why people have a hard time. We need to make it as easy as possible.

It's time to join 40 other states and give us greater access to voting by making it more convenient here in CT. I urge you to consider your constituents' wishes, vote in favor of HJR 161, and allow us to have a say on early voting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sheila Phelan

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