

Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent  
New Haven, CT

Testimony in support of

**HJ-161**

**“RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE  
CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE  
ABSENTEE VOTING”**

Distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

It is in all of our interests to give everyone in our democracy the opportunity to make their voice heard. As such, we should always be looking for ways to simplify voter registration and increase access to the polls. Currently, the complicated process of requesting an absentee ballot, plus the narrow list of “good reasons” for doing so, is a barrier to participation for voters who are unable to go to the polls due to work, family, or other obligations. This disproportionately affects low-income CT residents, who already struggle to find opportunities to make their voices heard.

Please consider lowering barriers to participation in our democracy by paving the way for a Constitutional amendment allowing early voting and no-fault absentee voting in Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent  
New Haven, CT