

Testimony in support of H.J. 161

Dear Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Saul Roselaar, and I am a student at Yale University and a board member of the school's chapter of Every Vote Counts. Through Every Vote Counts, I was active in encouraging students to vote this past November, and therefore saw through others' experiences as well as my own the barriers to voting that students often face. I am delighted, therefore, to see bills under consideration that will make voting easier for students, and all citizens, and urge you to support House Joint Resolution No. 161, *Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution To Allow For Early Voting And No-Excuse Absentee Voting*.

This past November, members of the New Haven Community and my fellow students waited up to four hours in order to register to vote and cast their ballot. Others in the community didn't have the flexibility in their schedules in order to spend hours waiting in line, and turned away from the polls. Long lines deterring busy individuals such as students, parents with children, or people with inflexible jobs, are an affront to democracy, and will be alleviated by some of the legislation before you today. By allowing early voting, and making absentee voting easier, as proposed through H.J. No. 161, my fellow students and I will have greater flexibility to choose when and where we vote.

Thank you for your consideration,

Saul Roselaar
New Haven, CT