

Testimony in support of HJ 161: RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

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

I was born and raised in CT and have lived here for approximately 40 of my 52 years. I am writing in support of HJ 161 because I believe that **it is essential to make voting more convenient** in CT. Because our state Constitution includes language which prohibits early voting, we must first amend the Constitution to enable this discussion to proceed. Should this pass, there will be plenty of time prior to and after the vote to discuss the details the vote on the resolution would not even be put to the voters until 2020. In essence, a vote in support this bill would simply allow us, your constituents, to **weigh in** on whether or not we think our legislators should work to **make voting more convenient**.

By voting yes on this bill you would not actually be voting to change the laws but simply to allow your constituents to have the right to share their opinions with your about early voting. To not let our voices be heard would be to disenfranchise voters.

For those legislators who say that they are in favor of no-excuse absentee ballots and thus we don't need early voting, I would like to remind them that in order to change the laws regarding absentee voting, they would need to amend the Constitution as it sets for rules for absentee voting as that is a form of early voting. For the Constitution to be amended, there needs to be a vote by the voters to allow this to happen. Increasing voter turnout means our democracy is more representative, which is actually in everyone's interest. Public opinion on early voting across the US is strong as 39 states allow early voting in some form.

Please vote yes for HJ 161. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alisa Trachtenberg
Ridgefield, CT