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March 8, 2019

Chairpersons Flexer and Fox, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2200  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Support for Bill HJR 161-- Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Voting.**

Dear Chairpersons Flexer and Fox, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members:

As a recently retired registrar of voters for the Town of Wilton, a town with many commuters, I support amending the CT Constitution to permit you and your colleagues to draft legislation enacting both early voting and no excuse absentee voting-- common sense, pro-voter measures for our state.

**Voters request early voting.** One of the most frequent questions our office received before Election Day in November 2016 was “When and where is early voting for the Presidential Election?” Unlike other states, Connecticut prohibits early voting except for limited absentee voting. These prohibitions cause confusion, inconvenience, and even disenfranchisement. Many newcomers to our state are incredulous that a forward-thinking state like Connecticut still restricts in-person voting to Election Day.

**Advantages.** Besides voter satisfaction, studies show that early in-person voting shortens lines at polling places on Election Day, allows problem resolution prior to Election Day, and eases stress on the election system in general.

**Connecticut is in the minority for early voting.** The National Association of State Legislatures reports that 39 states (plus DC) allow early voting. No excuses are needed to cast an absentee ballot in 27 states; only 15 states—including Connecticut—still require an excuse, but 7 of these states offer their voters another early voting option.

I urge you to support HJ 161 to make it easier for Connecticut citizens to participate in their democracy.

Sincerely,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld