Dear Senator Mae Flexer and Representative Daniel J. Fox, Ranking Members Senator Rob Sampson and Representative Mike France, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Paula Bacolini, I have lived in Glastonbury, CT for over 35 years. I am a leader in CT for Voting Rights grassroots organizations. My testimony today is in support of Senate Bill 233: An Act Concerning Elections.

This comprehensive legislation is just what CT needs to make voting accessible to all our constituents and provide all of us with a vibrant democracy. Our election system needs to be modernized to avoid long lines, especially in our cities. It doesn’t seem equal or just to me, when I can vote in my small town in 10 minutes, but those voters who live in the larger towns and cities have to endure hardships in order to cast their votes, which is their right under the constitution.

I support and we all need Automatic Voter Registration, Same-Day Registration, the ability to register and vote at the same polling location, additional polling locations for Same-Day Registration as the individual towns and cities may need, and once in line before 8pm on Election Day for Same-Day Registration, a voter must be allowed to vote just as a registered voter who is in line at 8pm may vote at their polling locations.

I applaud SOTS Merrill and the GAE Committee for this legislation.

I strongly support S.B. 233, and urge all the members of the Committee vote this important legislation out of committee to allow the CT General Assembly to vote on this issue. Thank you for your consideration and your hard work.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Bacolini
Glastonbury, CT