TO: Government Administration and Elections Committee  
FROM: Sydney Bryant  
DATE: February 28, 2020  
RE: Testimony in support to S.B. 233: An Act Concerning Elections

To the Co-chairs Senator Flexer, Senator McLachlan, Representative Fox and the distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

As a student in the state of Connecticut, I’m writing to you in passionate support of S.B. 233: An Act Concerning Elections, especially regarding the section restoring electoral privileges to those on parole. Those on parole have already completed their reconciliatory processes and deserve to be welcomed back into our community. The right to vote is such an important part of citizenship in this country; civic engagement upholds democratic republics like the United States. It is unjust to relinquish these privileges from members of our communities.

Electoral re-enfranchisement is a crucial part of re-entry for those on parole. It is an indication that they can come back from their time in prison as full, respected members of society. Enfranchisement helps reduce recidivism, such as in Florida after it restored electoral privileges to felons. We should be unlocking the vote to make our government as representative as possible. Exclusivity in voting is antithetical to our shared political values.

Thus, I urgently implore you to expand Connecticut’s electoral policies, as all of our neighbors in New England have already done, so that we may progress forward together.

Thank you for your granting me the opportunity to testify,
Sydney Bryant