February 27, 2020

To the Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

As a Connecticut resident and believer in the universal right to vote, I strongly urge your support for S.B. No. 233. Any bill that expands the franchise helps to validate one of the most sacred values of our country: that all people deserve the chance to be represented in our government. This bill does just that by promoting automatic voter registration and expanding the right of parolees to vote.

I am especially in favor of the provision restoring the right to vote for people released from incarceration or on probation. The right to vote should not depend on someone’s financial status, and removing the required repayment of fines to regain the vote helps to ensure that people can vote regardless of how wealthy they are. Just because someone is poorer or has previously been incarcerated does not mean that their voice matters less when it comes to our elections.

By making voting easier and more accessible, our government can better take into account the opinions and needs of a fuller, more representative voting public.

I regret that I can’t present this testimony in person, but am grateful to have the opportunity to express my view regardless. Thank you for your consideration, and for your support of S.B. No. 233.

Sincerely,

Marnie Lowe
Student
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