My name is Beth Rotman and I am the Director of Money in Politics and Ethics for the national organization of Common Cause and former Director of the Citizens’ Election Program in Connecticut. I have also served as the Deputy General Counsel of the New York City Campaign Finance Board.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit citizen lobby that works to improve the way government operates for all of us. Common Cause has more than 1.2 million members around the country.

I would like to thank the leadership of this Committee, and Committee members, for the diligent work to keep the State of Connecticut at the forefront of election reforms.

Connecticut became the first state to pass the strongest set of campaign finance reforms through the legislative process. One of the key goals of these reforms was to encourage broader participation in our state’s democratic processes.

So, it is consistent with Connecticut’s role as a national leader, that this Committee would consider and move forward with codification of automatic voter registration. **Automatic voter registration is bringing new people into the process and helping create a strong 21st century democracy where everyone can participate.**

But it does more than that.

AVR modernizes voter registration while encouraging accuracy.

**Automatic voter registration makes it easier to ensure that only eligible voters are able to cast ballots, which better protects the integrity of our elections. It helps us make sure our records are accurate and complete.**

AVR is gaining momentum across the country.

At least 20 states and D.C. have approved the policy, and many more states are currently considering legislation to implement or expand AVR reforms.

I applaud this Committee for the leadership role you are taking here. Thank you on behalf of our 1.2 million members around the country for keeping Connecticut at the forefront of election reforms.