Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, members of the committee, I am Stacey Zimmerman, Associate Director of the SEIU Connecticut State Council. SEIU represents 65,000 active and retired members in the state. SEIU would like to thank you for raising S.B. 233 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIONS.

Bill S.B. 233 is the next step in securing and modernizing our elections in Connecticut. Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) simplifies and streamlines the way we register to vote. It modernizes the voter registration process and keeps voter rolls secure and up to date. Eligible citizens are already electronically registered at the DMV unless they opt out - AVR legislation strengthens and codifies this into law.

This bill also authorizes Automated/Electronic Voter Registration at federally designated voter registration agencies: DSS (SNAP, etc.), Access Health CT & Medicaid, UCONN and other state universities, colleges, and other government entities.

S.B. 233 has the potential to have citizens become engaged in the democratic process at many different intersections of one’s life and government. This is the next step in the Constitution State’s efforts to lead the way in promoting and enhancing how citizens participate in elections.

The Center for American Progress estimates 245,396 new voters would be registered in the first year alone. We all know that those that are invested in the electoral process are also invested in their communities. Therefore, the provision to restore Parolee Voting Rights is so important.

SEIU believes that an inclusive process builds an inclusive society and we proudly urge the committee to advance this very important piece of legislation.