

Justin Gendron

Testimony for HB 5883

March 17th, 2021

### Testimony for H.B. 5883

My name is Justin Gendron, and I am a Stratford resident and President of the College Democrats of Southern Connecticut State University. I am writing to urge members of the committee to support HB-5883: An Act Concerning Voting for Municipal Officers and on Local Questions.

This bill would help High School Students gain an early foothold in Grassroots Democracy. I know this bill would help politically active High School Students, because back in 2016, I was that politically active student. Back in 2016, I was President of the Stratford High School Theatre Society and noticed that our theatre department did not receive any funding for the past couple of years so I did some digging and found that, buried in the Board of Education budget, was a line item for \$10,000 that was supposed to go to both theatre departments in town and but the money was never given to either department. So I organized and I fought alongside fellow students and the Board of Education finally caved and gave us the budget we deserved.

Those people are still in charge and had High School Students been able to vote we would have been able to make a greater impact. Imagine a Board of Education being held responsible by the students the board is directly impacting. I implore you to support this bill.

