February 22nd, 2021

Dear members of the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee:

My name is *[YOUR NAME]*, I am a voter from *[YOUR TOWN NAME]*. Passing both **HJ 58**, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to **Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting**; and **HJ 59**, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to **Permit Early Voting** are extremely important to me because *[INSERT YOUR PERSONAL REASONS/ STORY].*

43 states offer in person early voting options, including 6 states with all-mail elections. Connecticut lags behind most of the nation. Many voters work 2 or 3 jobs just to keep their families afloat and need more options than just a single day to get time off for voting. Recent polling says nearly 80% of Connecticut voters support early voting.

**More than 650,000 voters voted securely by absentee ballot in the 2020 CT General Election**—which means they voted early on their own schedules. Connecticut's record breaking 80% voter turnout in the 2020 General Election was thanks to absentee ballot voting. Furthermore, 73% of Connecticut voters support giving all voters the option to vote by absentee ballot without needing an excuse.

While HJ 59 (Early Voting) only needs a 50% majority vote in favor, both the House and Senate must pass HJ 58 (No-Excuse Absentee Voting) with at least a 75% supermajority this legislative session—in which case this proposal would also appear before voters as a ballot question in the 2022 statewide election. Let’s get it done this session!

**The choice is clear. Please choose democracy and pass HJ 58 and HJ 59.**

Thank you,

*[YOUR NAME]*

*[YOUR TOWN NAME]*