



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
H.J 1 AN ACT CONCERNING A Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to
Allow for No Excuse Absentee Voting

February 21, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal, Vice Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Morrin Bello, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco, Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

From: Julianna Larue, Climate Policy and Outreach Coordinator Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support of H.J 114** that resolves proposing a State Constitutional Amendment allowing for no excuse absentee voting.

This legislation offers a unique **opportunity to omit new tools** to our towns and cities to allow citizens to participate in fair and just elections.

Connecticut's rules for absentee voting are among the most restrictive in the United States. The legislature should take this opportunity to reduce congestion on election day and improve the chances of vulnerable people to make their voices heard. As a former out of state student that voted through absentee ballots, I value the importance they have on election day. With the state of our economy and the unsteadiness of Covid-19 it is imperative to provide for everyone to be able to have an opportunity to cast an absentee ballot.

During the 2022 election more than 120,000 Connecticut residents voted absentee. The growing demand for voting by mail should be acknowledged by legislators so people's voices can be heard. The multiple security measures around mail-in voting ensures that ballots are properly delivered to election offices and that fraudulent ballots are not counted at the polls. Voting by absentee ballots is safe and effective for all Connecticut citizens.

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of **H.J 114**.

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