



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
H.B 5004 AN ACT Implementing Early Voting
February 2, 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.B 5004** that will implement early voting.

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

As of June 2022, Connecticut was one of five states that do not allow early voting. During the November 8th, 2022, election, 687,385 Connecticut citizens voted for an early voting amendment, therefore showing that the majority of Connecticut voters support the implementation of early voting procedures.

Allowing for a 14 day early voting period provides flexibility to voters who cannot take time off to vote on election days. Most workers are not allowed time off to visit the polls on traditional weekday election days. This legislation will help address historic and deep-rooted inequalities in the labor force that often prevent minority, or low-income citizens, from participating in the electoral process.

Providing additional days for citizens to vote means faster and more efficient election day lines, allowing poll workers and election administrators to devote more time to ensure voting processes are working smoothly and fairly.

The consensus is in, Connecticut citizens want early voting. Now is the time to implement the legislation to allow voters to make their voices heard.

CTLCV urges you to support H.B 5004 to ensure that early voting is implemented. Passage of this bill will benefit the residents of our entire state. Thank you.

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