

July 20, 2020

Written Testimony of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL, JEWISH FEDERATION
OF GREATER HARTFORD

Before the Government Affairs & Elections Committee concerning LCO No. 3576, An Act Concerning
Absentee Voting at the 2020 State Election and Election Day Registration

Dear Members of the Government Affairs & Elections Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish Community of Greater Hartford, the boards of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford go on record in support of expanding access to absentee ballots to the November General Election. As it is currently written, Connecticut's restrictive laws regarding absentee voting force residents to choose between risking the possibility of contracting Covid-19 by going to the polls or staying at home and not exercising their right to vote.

The right to vote is fundamental to our system of government.

Connecticut's limits on voting threaten people's health in addition to their rights. Furthermore, communities that have held primaries during the pandemic have experienced a reduced numbers of poll workers, thus decreasing the number of open polling places and increasing the amount of time voters have spent in line waiting to vote.

Our Jewish tradition values human life above all else. The commandment to protect life extends beyond one's own life to an obligation to protect the lives of others. Our Jewish value to act mandates that we look for a way to protect life while protecting our community's right and ability to vote. We therefore respectfully request that you support expanded opportunities for safe voting during this pandemic through the November election.

BY 
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