

To the Honorable members of the Connecticut General Assembly:

I am an active citizen of Connecticut and resident of the Town of Bloomfield. I am also an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. Currently I am retired, largely due to COVID-19 making it unsafe for me to work.

I wish to present testimony via this email.

As a very active 76 year old living at Seabury in Bloomfield, I am aware of the many blessings of living in a lifecare community, particularly one as responsible and careful as Seabury. It is absolutely crucial that all citizens of CT be able to vote by absentee ballot, at least this year (though I personally believe that continuing absentee ballot voting in future elections and referendums will strengthen our democracy and improve participation.) One of the reasons it is crucial right now is that if residents living in close proximity to others (in retirement communities, apartment buildings, etc) or working in proximity to others) are required to vote in person, the spread of the virus is much more likely. Not only do I not want it, I don't want to carry it to others. Further, for those of us who are elders or disabled, the long lines with social distancing will make the experience impossible for us.

I have noted that some lawmakers are using the excuse of "voter fraud" to deny us the right to vote safely. There is no evidence of any significant or even measurable voter fraud as a result of absentee balloting in states that have been using it for years. Please listen to reason and listen to those of us who desperately need this provision!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree  
Bloomfield, CT