



**Testimony of Jody Barr, Executive Director of Council 4, AFSCME  
LCO 3576, An Act Concerning Absentee Voting at the  
2020 State Election and Election Day Registration**

My name is Jody Barr and I serve as Executive Director of Council 4, AFSCME, a labor union with 30,000 public and private-sector members.

I am submitting testimony in support of LCO 3576, *An Act Concerning Absentee Voting at the 2020 State Election and Election Day Registration*. Our members have been on the frontlines for Covid-19 and have seen firsthand how dangerous this situation is. No one should have to take a risk that could cause death, sickness, and/or long-term health problems to cast a ballot.

Public health officials are warning us that we simply don't know how long the pandemic will last – or if there will be a second, third or fourth wave as we reopen businesses and resume our lives. Connecticut residents will still be at risk on Nov. 3. That is another reason to support LCO 3576, so that sheltering in place can also mean voting in place. By acting now, we have the time to preserve everyone's ability to vote in November.

Connecticut's absentee voting rules are too restrictive and does not consider a pandemic like we are seeing currently. Voters have already had the ability to vote absentee for the primary elections and it should be no different for the general election.

Thank you and I urge the committee to protect voters safety and pass LCO 3576.