



Written Testimony of
Bishop John Selders of Hartford, CT
Co-Founder of Moral Monday CT

Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee Listening Session
of Proposed Legislation

LCO No. 3576

AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING AT THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AND
ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

July 21, 2020

Good Morning State Senator Flexer and State Representative Fox and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is John Selders, Pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ, Hartford, CT and Co-Founder of Moral Monday CT, a statewide group of persons of faith and conscious doing our work at the intersection of social justice and the Movement for Black Lives.

I along with my colleagues with Moral Monday CT support bill and the work of the leadership of this committee, in particularly, to bring forth a bill confirming the fundamental right to exercise the right to vote. During this unprecedented time of uncertainty with regards to the health crisis Covid-19 has produced, Governor Lamont signed an executive order allowing any registered voter to use an absentee ballot for the August 11th primary. Now we call on the legislature to do the same in ensuring residents access to the vote. We support particularly the removal of these four words “such elector's or person's” from the bill for by removing those words, it will ensure that as long as the pandemic remains Connecticut voters will have access to voting rights including any possible special elections early in 2021.

Thank you for your consideration.