

To the Honorable members of the Government Administration and Education Committee and of the General Assembly:

My name is Kenneth Speyer. I am attorney residing in New Britain, Connecticut.

I urge your support for LCO 3576, AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING AT THE 2020 STATE ELECTION AND ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

I am 70 years old, with diabetes. Since I reached voting age in 1971, I have never failed to vote in an election. I very much wish to exercise my fundamental right and civic responsibility, by voting in both the Aug primary election and the Nov. general election, but I cannot vote in my regular polling place without seriously jeopardizing my life and health. There are many other voters in the same position, and likely to be even more as the date of the Nov. election approaches. This includes many voters who may not personally be ill, but who, if they were to contract COVID-19, would likely pass it on to a vulnerable member of their household or family. No one should have to choose between his or her right to vote, and the health, indeed the survival, of the voter or a member of his or her family.

I certainly hope that a vaccine or other cure for the current pandemic will be found before 2021 elections, but it is unrealistic to expect this public health crisis to end prior to this Nov. This bill needs to be enacted now, so that preparations for the Nov. election can go forward in an orderly fashion. If the pandemic does not end by early 2021, then the regular 2021 session of the legislature can determine what, if anything, needs to be done for elections in 2021 or future years, in light of both the health situation at that time and experience in the Nov. 2020 election.

Thank you.