



Testimony
of
Kyleigh Hillerud
ConnPIRG State Board Chair

In support of

LCO 3576, AAC Absentee Voting at the 2020 State Election and Election Day Registration

Chairperson Flexer, Chairperson Fox and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for today's historic webinar listening session. My name is Kyleigh Hillebrud. On behalf of ConnPIRG, we strongly support the Draft LCO No. 3576, AAC Absentee Voting at the 2020 State Election and Election Day Registration, but also urge the legislature to amend this to permanently align Connecticut state statutes with our state constitution, instead of just making this fix temporary.

Since 1972, ConnPIRG has worked to give students the skills and opportunity to practice effective citizenship. Both on campus and out in the world, we mobilize students to investigate big social problems, come up with practical solutions, convince the media and public to pay attention, and get decision-makers to act.

A functioning democracy depends on the participation of its citizens. Every American – Democrat, Republican, or independent – has a fundamental right to have their vote counted. The 2020 pandemic is just the most recent example of significant hurdles that can be thrown in the path of citizens wishing to participate. We need to break down the barriers that make it harder to vote - especially in this unprecedented time. We have the tools to deal with the challenges and we have a responsibility to use them.

As we prepare for Election Day, ConnPIRG is working with college campuses and cities to make it easier, safer, and more accessible for students to vote. We're promoting our online tool studentvote.org to help students get registered online and find out all the information they need to cast their ballot safely. Absentee voting for the upcoming elections is also fundamental to ensure that everyone's voice is heard this fall.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to participate today. We look forward to seeing this legislation passed and the impact it will have on the upcoming critical election.