

July 21, 2020

Written Testimony of Linda Scacco and Edward Turro

Before the Government Affairs & Elections Committee concerning LCO No. 3576, An Act Concerning Absentee Voting at the 2020 State Election and Election Day Registration

Dear Members of the Government Affairs & Elections Committee,

We are writing to support expanded access to the use of absentee ballot voting during the national health crisis of COVID-19.

To this point, Connecticut has done an excellent job of responding to this crisis and as such we have been successful in reducing the rate of infection and death from this serious disease.

The threat of this disease, however, is not over. The danger will continue over the coming months, perhaps longer, and is likely to continue during the election period, both on CT primary day, August 11 and the general election on November 3.

It is important that voters exercise their constitutional right to vote, and we should not be asked to risk health and safety in order to exercise this right. It is critical that governments make it as easy as possible for citizens to exercise the right to vote. Government officials should not be engaging in fear mongering by suggesting that ballot collection boxes are unsafe. This is clearly false. Many states have adopted vote by mail and regularly use ballot collection boxes. They are safe and widely accepted and respected nationwide.

We fully support legislation to extend absentee voting to all otherwise qualified voters in the time of this pandemic. We as voters in this state should not have to choose between protecting our health and exercising our right to vote.

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