

I am Maria McKeon from Hebron, Connecticut. I am a lawyer and represent people from all walks of life. It is very difficult for many of my clients to get to the polls within the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Some can't get there because they live in Connecticut and have to catch an early train to New York before the polls open and get home much later than 8 p.m. Some start their jobs at 6 or 7 a.m. and cannot get to the polls early and often have to pick up kids after work and get them to activities that are outside of town and don't get back home until late and then have to feed kids and get homework done. Some are required to work late when the employer demands so that they often do not get a choice to leave in time to get to the polls. These people cannot vote by absentee ballot under the current rules because they are not "sick" and do not know ahead of time if they will be out of the district on the day of voting. Early voting and amending the absentee voting rules to allow for voting by absentee voting whether or not you are sick would allow these people to vote.

I am often in court in Stamford and need to leave before 6 a.m. to get there in time due to traffic and often do not get home until after 8 p.m. due to traffic or post court meetings with clients. I can never tell what day I will be in court so I cannot obtain an absentee ballot because I am not sick and I do not know if I will be out of district on election day. I would like to be able to vote early and use the absentee ballot to vote even if I am not sick as I will not know in time whether I will be out of district on election day.

My son lives in Seattle, Washington and has been voting by mail exclusively there. He has shown me his voting process and it is so easy and saves a lot of money for the State. There is no reason why we do not have all mail in voting. Many states allow mail in voting. Connecticut is way behind the times on allowing mail in voting. We should be on the cutting edge of technology, not the last in line. Mail in voting sends a message to businesses that we are a technology focused state.

Please support changing the absentee ballot rules to allow anyone to vote by absentee ballot even if they are not sick.

Please support early voting. I would ask that we can vote 3 weeks before elections.

Please support mail in voting.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Maria McKeon