



CT Black Women

Written Testimony of

Pamela Selders of Hartford, CT

Founder of CT Black Women

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 Pamela Selders, Founder of CT Black Women, a group of Black women of conscience working together in supporting and building ourselves and our community through activism, advocacy, education and creativity 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.

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. I write to you in support of this bill. Please align state statute with the state constitution to ensure voting rights are secured. I understand while adding a one-time COVID-19 excuse to vote absentee for the 2020 general election, the draft bill still restricts voting rights beyond the language of Connecticut's state constitution. I call on you to ensure residents access to the vote. I urge you to remove 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 again for hearing this today.