

Dear Members of the Government and Administrations Election Committee.

I am proud to live in a state that is managing the scourge of covid19.

That said, I worry that you, our legislators, need to act quickly to ensure that we do not have to choose between our health and our right, our obligation, to vote in November.

I am concerned about contracting or spreading Covid-19 by voting in person this coming November.

We need you to step up and take real action to protect the health and safety of our CT voters and to protect the integrity of the general election.

While adding a one-time COVID-19 excuse to vote absentee (ONLY) for the 2020 general election, the draft bill still restricts voting rights beyond the language of Connecticut's state constitution.

I am respectfully requesting that you use this opportunity that you have to **align state statute with the state constitution to ensure voting rights are secured, not just now but in the future.** Beyond the November general election, the draft bill would allow voters to get absentee ballots because of "such elector's or person's illness." If we remove these four words -- "such elector's or person's" - - from the draft bill regarding absentee ballot voting, it will ensure that as long as the pandemic remains in America eligible Connecticut voters will have access to voting rights – including any possible special elections early in 2021. Future legislatures should not have to continue to come back in for special sessions to protect voting rights.

Thank you for listening to this request. This is not a partisan issue. I believe that everyone in our state should be able to vote without having to choose between exercising that duty to keep our democracy strong and their own health or that of family members.

Thank you for your efforts,

Be safe, and ensure our health,

Pegeen Rubinstein  
Westport, CT