

July 20, 2020

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To the Members of the Administration and Elections Committee and the Honorable Representative Joseph Polletta:

I teach AP US Government and Politics at the Taft School. I am also a consultant to the College Board for the AP US Government and Politics course. I have my Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University with a major in American Government and my Master's degree from Harvard University. I write to support the addition of COVID-19 as a reason for obtaining an absentee ballot.

The role of our elected officials should be to make voting easier for the citizens and not harder. Our absentee ballot system is safe and effective and should be accessible to everyone, especially those most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19. This will also protect our poll workers, many of whom are older. Connecticut needs to modernize its voting laws and have early voting and no-excuse absentee voting. I also hope you consider full vote by mail in future elections. When more people can participate, it only serves to legitimize our governmental system further.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion.  
Take care,  
Rachael A. Ryan