

Dear Government Administration & Election Committee:

I strongly support the use of absentee ballots. Decades ago I voted in my first few elections as a California resident, and I did so by absentee ballot even though I lived in state and could have gone to a polling place. I did so then because it was more convenient and I knew I would never have to stand in a line or worry about another commitment keeping me from being able to vote. I am now a proud resident of Connecticut and there is no reason at all that I can't vote here the same way I did in California all those years ago. Many other states allow this practice. It is not radical, it is not less secure than in person voting. It prevents crowding at polling stations and is more efficient for voters and poll workers.

Please pass this temporary measure for COVID-19, but please also extend this practice permanently in a way that aligns with the state constitution. There is no need to tie the right to illness or the threat of illness.

Thank you,

Zach Zarnow
Middletown, CT