

In support of the continuation of the Emergency Declaration and Limited Executive Orders

Hearing Date 2/8/22 9 AM

I support the continuation of the Emergency Declaration and Limited Executive Orders.

I am specifically strongly in favor of absentee voting for all during elections in 2022 in light of the continuing pandemic.

Without no-excuse absentee ballots, many factors could work against CT citizens who want to exercise their right to vote. These include unpredictable COVID-19-related barriers such as the voter or a family member being infected, requiring isolation or quarantine; care-giving responsibilities for an ill family member; and switch-over to remote instruction in schools experiencing a high rate of COVID infection, requiring a parent to stay home on election day. In addition, voters who are vulnerable to more serious consequences of COVID-19 may not wish to congregate indoors at polling places. Access to absentee ballots for all registered voters would also prevent missed voting opportunities due to winter storms. Absentee voting by a higher percentage of registered voters will decrease crowding at polling places, providing a safer environment for in-person voters and for those who staff the polling places.

I cannot think of a single reason to prohibit no-excuse absentee voting during the 2022 elections. Let's not deprive any CT citizens of the right to cast their ballots. I urge quick action on this.

I urge the continuation of the Emergency Declaration and Limited Executive Orders.

Sincerely,

Karen Edwards MD MPH

Stamford CT