



765 Asylum Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-523-9146  
[www.acluct.org](http://www.acluct.org)

**Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 470, An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State and Other Election Administrators Regarding Certain Voter Registration Information and Rejected Absentee Ballots**

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting written testimony in support of Senate Bill 470, An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State and Other Election Administrators Regarding Certain Voter Registration Information and Rejected Absentee Ballots.

Voting is the foundation of democracy, the right through which all our other rights are protected and preserved. For that reason, the ACLU-CT supports extending voting rights to the greatest number of people, with the only permissible restrictions being those essential to making elections secure and fair. Connecticut's history with voting rights is long, checkered, and in many ways shamefully suppressive, but with continued efforts, like those in Senate Bill 470, to extend the franchise and make it as accessible as possible, we can move forward with a strong electorate and truly democratic elections.

The ACLU-CT believes that every voter should have the right to protect their privacy while also exercising their right to vote. We view these two rights as equally important to the people of Connecticut. The exercise of a person's right to vote does not, and should not, waive their right to privacy. Section 1 of this bill would at once expand the information on a voter registration record that can be disclosed while

keeping unique identifying information, like driver's license numbers, identity card numbers, and Social Security numbers confidential. To that end, we support Section 1 of this bill.

Voting is the foundation of democracy, the right through which all our other rights are protected and preserved. For that reason, the ACLU-CT supports extending voting rights to the greatest number of people, with the only permissible restrictions being those essential to making elections secure and fair. Absentee voting in this state is notoriously difficult, and Section 2 of this bill would provide notice to people whose absentee ballots were rejected and the option to remedy the rejected absentee ballot through voting in-person the day of the election. Section 3 of this bill also takes aim at our outdated absentee ballot system by providing that absentee ballots can be counted throughout the election day, rather than potentially all at once. We support these provisions wholeheartedly.

Senate Bill 470 is a step toward making Connecticut's antiquated voting systems more accessible to all who are eligible to vote. As such, the ACLU-CT supports Senate Bill 470, and urges this Committee to do the same.