



Legislative Testimony  
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**Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6207, An Act Concerning  
Designation of Polling Places**

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

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the interim senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 6207, An Act Concerning Designation of Polling Places.

Every voter has the right to vote in a safe polling place without intimidation or suppression. As the U.S. faces a wave of voter suppression that continues to grow, we must be vigilant against not only those clear incursions on the right to vote, but also the less obvious methods of voter suppression. These include stricter voter ID laws, cuts or barriers to alternative methods of voting, like early and absentee voting, and closing polling places. We are all affected by voter suppression, because democracy is debased when the vote is not accessible for everyone. But some groups are hurt more by voter suppression, particularly people of color, young people, the elderly, and people with disabilities.<sup>1</sup> Across the country, counties with larger minority populations have fewer polling sites and poll workers per voter.<sup>2</sup>

For that reason, we strongly support efforts to prevent voter suppression. House Bill 6207 represents a good measure of this type. By requiring local voting officials to notify the public and be answerable to them whenever they propose closures of

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<sup>1</sup> ACLU, Block the Vote: Voter Suppression in 2020, Feb. 3, 2020, *available at* <https://www.aclu.org/news/civil-liberties/block-the-vote-voter-suppression-in-2020/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

polling places, House Bill 6207 would provide a strong measure of accountability. Public input on closures would give a voice to the people too often left out of such decisions: the people who vote there. In addition, Section 1 of the bill puts minimum notice requirements of polling place closures in place in statute, another protective measure for voters.

In short, this bill would ensure accountability for polling place closures while still allowing sufficient flexibility for municipalities to close unneeded polling places. Because it guards against voter suppression, we strongly support this bill. We urge this Committee to favorably report on House Bill 6207.