



TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 5048

AA ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

February 16, 2024

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Osten and Rep. Walker, Vice Chairs Sen. Hartley, Rep. Exum, and Rep. Paris, Ranking Members Sen. Berthel and Rep. Nuccio, Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Julianna Larue, Climate Policy and Outreach Coordinator, CT League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 5048

We are deeply troubled by the inadequacy of the funding allocated for the implementation of early voting. CTLCV worked tirelessly for early voting to be passed in our legislature and worked to educate voters on its importance and benefits. Without adequate funding to implement early voting, our efforts to enact its passage could result in a failure of implementation.

Our support for early voting springs from a belief that easy access to voting plays an important role safeguarding our democracy. Connecticut was one of only four states without early voting, and we are deeply concerned that the Secretary of State now lacks the necessary resources to effectively implement the new early voting program. When the first biennial budget did not contain funding for early voting, we heard that adjustments were going to be made in 2024 to rectify the shortfall. Regrettably, we are now informed that the necessary funds are being held back.

CTLCV urges you to prioritize the allocation of funds to ensure the comprehensive rollout of early voting across all cities and towns in Connecticut. Additionally, it is imperative to support the Connecticut Voter Registration System (CVRS), provide adequate translation services for election materials, and educate voters on their early voting options.

Thank you for considering our testimony, and we urge you to take decisive action to protect our democratic processes.

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