



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-H 7434,
AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -
CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES
House Committee on Judiciary
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
March 4, 2026**

Dear Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

In my capacity as the Director, Public Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of House Bill H 7434**. PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

People achieve reproductive freedom when they have full autonomy over their bodies and lives – this not only includes access to health care, but the ability to live in communities that are not over-policed; the ability to live without fear of having families torn apart; and to live without fear of harm from discriminatory policies, especially at the voting booth. The ability to preserve and expand access to reproductive health and rights rests on the right to vote and people to participate in our democracy fully. Voter suppression harms those same populations who are most impacted by anti-reproductive health and rights laws — people of color, young people, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities and people with low-incomes — and voter disenfranchisement directly impedes their ability to fight back against political attempts to control their reproductive health and rights.

H 7434 is a proactive piece of legislation that will ensure that federal immigration enforcement is not used as a tool of voter suppression by making voters too afraid of potential immigration consequences to exercise their right to the ballot. Especially as we see federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement tactics mutate to openly employ racist and discriminatory practices such as racial profiling, registered voters deserve to know

that, in Rhode Island, their access to such a fundamental right is being protected to the furthest extent of our state's capabilities.

In line with PPSNE's dedication to fighting for policies that comprehensively protect the lives of all Rhode Islanders as a way of ensuring that our patients, and our communities, have the resources they need to live healthy, safe, and self-determined lives, we urge support for H 7434.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Stern', written in a cursive style.

Hannah Stern
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