



State of Rhode Island

**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**

**Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State***

January 23, 2024

Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House Committee on State Government and Elections

RE: H7117 - An Act Relating to Elections – Primary Elections

Dear Chair Shanley,

As Secretary of State, my priority is to enfranchise voters by reducing barriers to voting and increasing opportunities for civic participation and education.

During this legislative session, our Office intends to submit legislation that will amend the State Constitution encouraging Same-Day Voter Registration, as well as legislation that will improve the primary voting process for unaffiliated voters, allowing them to vote in a primary and remain unaffiliated after they cast their ballot. We strongly believe that both initiatives will help increase voter participation.

We believe that H7117 will create a primary election that will also increase voter participation. Additionally, allowing all voters to participate in a primary in which all candidates are on the same ballot will ensure the winning candidate in November will receive a majority of the vote.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregg M. Amore". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
Honorable Arthur J. Corvese