

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Lima, Jennifer <jennifer\_lima@nksd.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 3:47 PM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Cc:** Young Democrats of Rhode Island; marymurphywalsh@gmail.com; Rep. Craven, Robert E.  
**Subject:** H5382

H5382  
Support  
Jennifer Lima

Chair Shanley and Committee Members,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 5382 which would allow citizens of a city or town who are at least sixteen (16) years of age to register to vote and to vote in school committee elections in municipalities where school committees are elected entities.

I have been a strong advocate for student voice in my time on the North Kingstown School Committee and have created spaces on our district's advisory boards for students to serve on them.

Who knows better than what students need then the students themselves and they invariably bring a unique perspective to the table. It only makes sense to extend the concept of student representation to the voting booth. Town officials and school board members are making decisions that affect students directly.

A junior at North Kingstown High School did their democracy project on this subject in December and when I asked them to counter the argument that might be made that students were not informed enough to make these decisions they responded that many adults are not either and we don't stop them from voting.

There are a large number of young adults who want to be actively engaged in our democracy. This would give them an opening point to do so. I urge you to move this forward to the floor for a vote.

Please note that the views expressed in this letter are my own and do not represent those of the North Kingstown School Committee.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Jennifer Lima  
School Committee Member  
4 Hickory Drive East  
North Kingstown

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Jennifer Lima (she/her/hers)  
North Kingstown School Committee Member  
[Why Pronouns Matter](#)  
[Talking About Pronouns in the Workplace - HRC Foundation \(thehrcfoundation.org\)](#)

"Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome." - Arthur Chan