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From: RI Democratic Women's Caucus <ridwomenscaucus@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 3:41 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support for H-5515 - same day registration

Please consider the below as written testimony in support of H-5515 on behalf of the Rhode Island Democratic Women's Caucus

Dear Chairman Shanley and honorable members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

The Rhode Island Democratic Women's Caucus is in **strong support** of House bill **H-5515**, the joint resolution for an amendment of the constitution for same day voter registration.

Women, like all eligible voters, deserve the opportunity to engage fully in the political process. Same-day registration allows women to participate in elections, even if they miss registration deadlines due to busy schedules, life changes, or moving. This empowerment is especially crucial in an era when women's voices are under attack and are essential in shaping policy decisions related to healthcare, reproductive rights, and social justice.

Women, especially women of color, young women, low-income women, disabled women and rural women, may face barriers to registering to vote. Same-day registration helps reduce the impact of these barriers, ensuring that women from all backgrounds can have their voices heard, regardless of socioeconomic or geographic constraints.

The ability to vote on the same day encourages higher voter turnout, which can lead to more diverse and representative participation. When more women vote, it increases the likelihood that policies which reflect women's needs and concerns, particularly in areas like reproductive rights, healthcare, equal pay, and gender equality, are addressed.

Same-day registration supports women's right to participate in the political process, ensures greater inclusivity, and strengthens the impact of women's voices in shaping policies that affect their lives.

We hope that the House State Government and Elections Committee will pass H-5515 this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanine Calkin
Vice-chair
Rhode Island Democratic Women's Caucus