

March 18, 2025

House Committee on Government and Elections
Rhode Island State House
HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 5515**, putting same-day voter registration on the ballot in 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 5515.

In a time when our democracy is in real jeopardy, Rhode Island needs to do all we can at the state level to strengthen voting rights. It's just embarrassing that we have the longest registration deadline in the nation. Rhode Island has been trying for years to increase our election turnout rates, and to promote civic participation. HB5515 is a simple way to do that, and long overdue.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of its passage.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
Providence, RI