



State of Rhode Island

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

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

January 15, 2026

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

RE: In support of House Bill 7007 – An Act Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 7007, legislation that will reinstate and permanently codify the electronic return of mail ballots process for a limited group of voters: members of the military, overseas voters, and voters with disabilities.

A secure portal was established in 2024 for a limited group of voters to submit their mail ballots electronically. The portal has ensured that military and overseas voters, as well as individuals with disabilities, can cast their ballots while maintaining the security of our elections. Since then, this portal has been used without incident, thanks to its strict adherence to protocols, including independent security reviews and compliance with national cybersecurity standards.

For the limited subset of voters who are eligible to use the online portal to return their mail ballots, the portal allows them to vote independently and securely. For some voters with disabilities, this is the only voting method that enables them to vote independently and privately, without assistance. If the statutory language is not restored, these voters will revert back to faxing or emailing their ballots to the Board of Elections – this is not secure and relies on obsolete technology. For election administrators, the secure online portal does not expose them to the cybersecurity risks of an emailed ballot.

Therefore, I urge this committee to support House Bill 7007, which will ensure that our military and voters with disabilities can securely and independently cast their ballots.

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,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections  
The Honorable William W. O'Brien