



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee **Governor**
Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7007 - AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Dear Chair Shanley:

I submit this letter for the record to formally express the Office of Veterans Services' strong support for H7007, scheduled for hearing on January 15, 2026.

As the State Director of Rhode Island's Office of Veterans Services, I am honored to represent approximately 60,000 Veterans, service members, and military families across our state. Ensuring their full and equal participation in our democratic process is not optional - it is a fundamental obligation. H7007 plays a critical role in meeting that obligation.

Originally enacted in 2022, the electronic ballot access provided under current law has proven to be a safe and secure essential for eligible disabled voters, active-duty members of the Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard), members of the Merchant Marine, eligible family members, and U.S. citizens living abroad. For many of these voters, traditional in-person or mail voting is not feasible because of physical disability, deployment conditions, and geographic distance. Without continued electronic ballot access, these Rhode Islanders would face unnecessary and unacceptable barriers to exercising their right to vote.

Electronic voting access granted under the original 2022 legislation expired on December 31, 2025. H7007 renews a continuity of access and reaffirms Rhode Island's commitment to disabled voters and those who serve our nation - often at great personal sacrifice. Passage of this legislation is a clear statement that Rhode Island values inclusion, accessibility, and the voices of its Veterans and military community.

Thank you for your time, your ongoing partnership, and your unwavering support of Rhode Island's Veterans and military families. I respectfully ask for your vote in support of H7007.

Sincerely,

Kasim J. Yarn
Director of Veterans Services