



January 15, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections
State House, 82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
via email: Rep-Shanley@rilegislature.gov
via email: HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov

RE: H-7007 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS – MAIL BALLOTS

Dear Chairman Shanley:

I write today in support of H-7007 – Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots. The Office of Healthy Aging is charged with advocating for Rhode Island's older adults and adults living with disabilities, ensuring they can live fulfilling lives in the communities of their choosing. Voting is a fundamental right for every citizen, and this legislation would allow for Rhode Islanders living with disabilities the ability to cast a secure electronic ballot and impact decision-making in their communities.

Since 2022, Rhode Island voters living with incapacitating disabilities had been allowed to utilize electronically transmitted ballots, but that right expired on December 31, 2025. By permanently codifying the rights of voters living with disabilities to receive and return ballots electronically, Rhode Island will ensure equitable access to the democratic process for those with illness, mental or physical disability, blindness, or serious mobility impairments.

The Office of Healthy Aging is the designated state unit on aging, and we are charged with advocating for laws, policies and investments that protect the rights, health and safety of older adults and adults living with disabilities. Together we can ensure our state remains a place that values and promotes the contributions of all citizens, regardless of age or disability.

As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter, and I urge the committee to support this bill. Your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island's older adults, adults living with disabilities, and their families are appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria E. Cimini".

Maria E. Cimini
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable William W. O'Brien
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy