



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

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January 15, 2026

Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chairman  
House Committee on State Government  
& Elections  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

### **RE: 2026 – H 7007 - An Act Relating to Elections –Mail Ballots**

Dear Chair Shanley:

Please accept this letter of support regarding [H 7007](#) which would allow eligible disabled voters and military and overseas voters to continue to utilize electronically transmitted ballots as originally enacted in 2022.

Many individuals with disabilities face significant challenges in exercising their right to fully participate in the election process without the accommodations afforded by the opportunity to transmit their ballots electronically.

The continuation of this voting option would significantly benefit individuals with psychiatric, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities who are eligible for services provided by the Department by ensuring that they have equal access to the voting process.

For these reasons, BHDDH respectfully urges the Honorable Members of this Committee to recommend H 7007 for passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leclerc".

Richard Leclerc  
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections  
Honorable William W. O'Brien  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House