



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-H 7303,  
JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A  
PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - SUFFRAGE  
House Committee on State Government & Elections  
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
March 19, 2026**

Dear Chair Shanley and honorable members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections:

In my capacity as the Director, Public Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of House Resolution 7303**. PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

PPSNE is proud to work with organizations and people in Rhode Island who are engaged in voter education and civic engagement and to participate in the promotion of voting rights as a member of the Rhode Island Voting Access Coalition.

Reproductive freedom cannot be achieved without the fundamental right to vote. The ability to preserve and expand access to reproductive health and rights rests on the right to vote and people to participate in our democracy fully. Voter suppression harms those same populations who are most impacted by anti-reproductive health and rights laws — people of color, young people, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities and people with low-incomes — and voter disenfranchisement directly impedes their ability to fight back against political attempts to control their reproductive health and rights. Without the right to vote, historically oppressed communities lose the right to decide and plan their futures. Voting is how we take control of our bodies, lives, and futures. That is why we support H 7303.

Rhode Island can make our elections more inclusive and accessible by allowing for same-day voter registration. 23 states and Washington D.C. all offer same-day registration even if residents missed the chance to register to vote in the weeks or months prior, and, by doing so, facilitate greater participation in the political process. While we are witnessing threats to voting rights nationwide, our state must act now to eliminate barriers for our residents to fully participate in our elections. Just as Rhode Island has updated other aspects of our voting system - through automatic voter registration, online voter registration, expanded access to mail ballots and early voting - we should additionally remove outdated barriers to voting like a registration deadline system that remains as an artifact of a time when voter registration was an all-paper process.

Planned Parenthood will continue to fight for policies that protect the rights of all people to ensure our patients and communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives. Having a meaningful right to vote is a critical part in ensuring our elected leaders prioritize efforts to preserve and expand our sexual and reproductive health and rights. We urge the committee and legislature to vote in support of H 7303 to make voting more accessible in Rhode Island.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



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