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Testimony on behalf of: House Bill No. 7788: AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARIES FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (Establishes the Ranked Choice Voting for Rhode Island Presidential Primaries and provides for new sections on ranked choice voting tabulation and results reporting.)

Why I support this bill:

Voting is the cornerstone of democracy, the fundamental right upon which all others rest. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to get it right.

Yes, ranked choice voting asks a bit more of us. Instead of marking a single box, we rank our preferences. It takes an extra moment, perhaps an extra explanation. But this small addition of complexity isn't a burden—it's an investment in fairness.

Our current system forces impossible choices: vote your conscience and risk "wasting" your vote, or vote strategically and silence your true voice. It allows candidates to win with mere pluralities while the majority opposed them. It punishes diversity of thought and rewards division.

Ranked choice voting fixes this. It ensures winners have genuine majority support. It lets you vote your hopes, not your fears. It encourages candidates to appeal broadly rather than divide narrowly.

If democracy is worth having, it's worth doing well. We navigate far more complex decisions every day—our jobs, our finances, our families. Surely we can handle ranking a few candidates to ensure our elections truly reflect the will of the people.

The question isn't whether we can handle ranked choice voting. It's whether we can afford not to.