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Testimony in OPPOSITION to H-7380: Prohibits the use of ranked choice voting in all local, state and federal public office elections.

Why I OPPOSE this bill:

Dear Committee,

I'm writing in strong opposition to House Bill 7380, which would ban ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Rhode Island.

I see RCV as a way of making elections more democratic, by allowing people to vote for the candidates they most prefer. I myself have sometimes faced a choice between voting for my favorite candidate, and voting for a less-favored candidate who seemed more likely to win. RCV would allow me as a citizen to skip the guesswork, and express my real preference without worrying about "throwing my vote away."

Some have said that RCV violates the idea of "one person, one vote," because if my most-preferred candidate is eliminated in the first round, my ballot gets transferred to my second choice. But this does not give me more say than anyone else! Someone whose most-preferred candidate is not eliminated in the first round still gets their vote counted again in the second round, just like I do.

In sum, citizens should be able to vote their consciences, and not be forced to vote strategically. RCV simply allows for voting one's conscience without risking throwing one's vote away. Please reject House Bill 7380, which would make a very good idea illegal in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Christensen

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