

Steven Sepe

From: Sara V <saravieira803@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 11:17 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support House Bill 7451

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support House Bill 7451, which requires applicants for mail ballots to provide either their Rhode Island driver's license or state identification number (valid or expired no more than six months prior) or the last four digits of their Social Security number.

This common-sense measure improves the integrity of Rhode Island's mail ballot process without restricting access to voting. Mail ballots are a convenient option for many Rhode Islanders, including seniors, military members, overseas voters, and those with disabilities. However, the current application process lacks sufficient identity verification, creating opportunities for fraud or error.

By requiring a state-issued ID number or partial SSN, HB 7451 allows election officials to more effectively match applicants against voter registration records and prevent ineligible or duplicate applications. This is a minimal burden on voters—most already have a driver's license or state ID—and it aligns with best practices used in many other states to secure absentee and mail voting.

Key benefits of this bill include:

- **Enhanced Security:** It adds a simple layer of verification that helps detect fraudulent applications while preserving the right of every eligible voter to cast a mail ballot.
- **Public Confidence:** Stronger safeguards for mail voting rebuild trust in our election system, especially as mail ballot usage has increased in recent years.

Rhode Island should continue to make voting accessible, but accessibility must be paired with basic security measures.

House Bill 7451 strikes that balance by modernizing mail ballot applications to reflect 21st-century verification standards without disenfranchising anyone.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sara Vieira

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