

Steven Sepe

From: Aimee Blanchette <aeb1a923@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 7:24 PM
To: Rep. Shanley, Evan P.; House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support #H8334

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Dear Committee Chair Shanley and Committee Members,

I am Aimee Blanchette and I am writing to express my strong support of the RI Voting Rights Act (H8334). This bill will protect voting rights for all Rhode Islanders, clearly support minority rights for all groups, and impose penalties for those interfering in elections. Federal protections have been eroded significantly since the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I am fortunate to be a teacher and I am especially fortunate to teach the Civil Rights Movement every year. It is devastating to teach the struggles and sacrifices made by those who participated in the movement knowing that the current presidential administration is determined to destroy the Voting Rights Act. People died for that law -- people like Jimmie Lee Jackson and James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo. The Supreme Court already dishonored their memories with *Shelby v. Holder* (2015) and they are not done. This is not a partisan issue, this is an American issue. We can't control what the Supreme Court and the current presidential administration will do but we can keep Rhode Island a free and safe place to vote. Please act to protect my rights and the rights of my neighbors and uphold the Constitution - recommend passage of the bills and urge the full House to pass the RI VRA this session.

Thank you,
Aimee Blanchette
Westerly, RI