



April 16, 2026

Subject: SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of H-8334 – Rhode Island Voting Rights Act

Dear Chairman Shanley and Honorable Members of the House State Government & Elections Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 7,500 essential workers across Rhode Island — including healthcare, home care, and child care workers — we write in strong support of H-8334, the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act.

For our members, the right to vote is deeply personal. These are workers who spend long hours caring for others — in hospitals, in nursing homes, in people’s homes, and in child care settings — and still make time to participate in our democracy. They vote because the decisions made in this building affect whether they can afford rent, access healthcare, and provide for their families.

But too often, working people face barriers that make voting harder than it should be. Irregular schedules, lack of flexibility on the job, language barriers, and confusion around voting rules can all stand in the way. When those barriers exist, it is our members — many of whom are women, immigrants, and people of color — who feel the impact most.

H-8334 is about making sure that the right to vote is not just something that exists on paper, but something people can actually exercise. It creates clear protections against discriminatory practices and ensures that when those practices occur, there is a path to challenge them. It shifts the burden away from working people having to navigate complicated legal systems on their own and instead puts responsibility on the system to be fair from the start.

Our members don’t have the time or resources to fight long legal battles just to have their voices heard. They need a system that works for them — one that recognizes the realities of their lives and protects their right to participate in decisions that shape their future.

Rhode Island has made progress in expanding access to voting, and H-8334 is the next step in making sure those gains are real and lasting. It ensures that every voter — regardless of where they live, where they work, or what language they speak — has a fair opportunity to participate.

We urge the Committee to pass H-8334.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "e".

Alex Moore
Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

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