

Amy Yozura
102 Warner Street
Newport, RI 02840
4/14/2026

House Committee on State Government & Elections
State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: In Support of H8334

Dear Chair Shanley and House Committee on State Government & Elections,

My name is Amy Yozura, I strongly support House Bill H8334, The RI Voting Right Act. I am a Newport resident, living in this community for the past 15 years. I am a current fellow of the Woman's Policy Institute, through the Woman's Fund of RI. My husband and I have two young children and I feel very strongly that the State of RI needs to codify the voting rights that are currently being attacked on the Federal level under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We need to preserve these rights not only for our current eligible voters, but for future generations of Rhode Islanders. This is exactly what the RIVRA aims to accomplish.

As a mom, I often think about the world that my kids will inherit. I want them to grow up in a Rhode Island where no eligible voter is intimidated or made to feel that their voice does not matter.

Across the country, we have seen new laws proposed that make it harder to vote. For example, we see legislation proposed, that would require women to take extra steps to register to vote, if they have changed their last name. Those proposed laws **will** disenfranchise **eligible voters**. Alternatively, **this legislation-** the RIVRA, **will protect** you constituents!

Let's be very clear about what this bill is. It does not change who can vote, or how we vote. It preserves accessibility to vote, and provides accountability! The RIVRA ensures our elections stay fair, and open to all voters. It protects every community and gives us the tools to challenge discrimination or voter suppression right here in our state. The bill favors access to review, not one-sided outcomes.

At a time when we cannot always rely on the Federal Government for protection, we must look to our state! **Rhode Island must pass this bill now, to protect our eligible voters during the upcoming elections in the fall!** I strongly and respectfully urge passage of these bills! Thank you for your time.

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Sincerely,

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