

April 15, 2026

Re: Testimony/ Support for Bill H-8334 Relating to Elections

Dear Chairperson Shanley,

I write in strong support of Representative Kazarian's bill H-8334 which would establish procedures to prevent discrimination and intimidation in the voting process. As a born and raised Rhode Island resident of 27 years, I urge the Committee on State Government and Elections to vote in favor of the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act to safeguard the societal pillar that is voting.

In the spirit of giving equal consideration to the majority and the minority, I offer up that my generation, Generation Z, has the lowest voter turnout rate of all voting-age generations in Rhode Island at 7% for presidential primaries, 1% in state primaries, and 26% in general elections¹. I am in the minority of participating voters in this state, and yet I firmly believe that this ability to participate should be protected as set in this bill.

I also believe that anyone and everyone who tries to interfere with an election through intimidation, deception, obstruction, or any other means should be held accountable. I was heartened to see that language imposing penalties for election interference was included in this bill, because I want the elections I participate in to be fair and have privacy at the ballot box. It is no surprise that voter intimidation can significantly impact electoral results, and this has played out at the federal level already². Given the confounding rate at which the U.S. Congress has ceded their ability to get anything done, even when their own re-elections count on it, the responsibility now falls on us at the state level to ensure fair elections.

I once again re-iterate my support for H-8334 and strongly urge the Committee to see to its passage out of committee and later by the House.

Thank you,

Emily J. Nunez

Cranston, RI 02910 Resident

¹ <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/DataInformation/VoterTurnout>

² <https://www.numberanalytics.com/blog/impact-voter-intimidation-democracy>