

Chairmen Shanley
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Jasmine Batista
236 Woodland Rd
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April 16, 2026

RE: House Bill 8334

Honorable Chair Shanley and members of the House Committee

I am writing in support of the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act

My name is Jasmine Batista, and I am a fellow in the Women's Policy Institute within the Women's Fund of Rhode Island. I was also a poll worker in 2024's Rhode Island Senate Election. I experienced first-hand the inconsistencies in Rhode Island's election system. I was placed in the city of Cranston which is a predominately Spanish speaking community. A voter was eager to submit his ballot and was almost unable to do so because of his limited English-speaking ability and inability to receive the required assistance. None of my fellow poll workers were able to translate or explain the instructions in Spanish. To mediate this situation, an elderly woman who lived upstairs from the polling place had to step in and assist this man. If it were not for her, this voter wouldn't have been able to express his 15th amendment right. I believe that passing H-8334, the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act will resolve this inconsistency by requiring assistance at the polls including but not limited to fully translated ballots, registration forms, public notices, bilingual poll workers and the ability to request real time phone interpretation services within 60 days of any statewide primary or general election.