

Testimony in Favor of H 8334 Voting Rights Act

My name is Jessie Kingston, retired. I live in Providence RI and am a member of Common Cause RI.

I support this bill . Since its Federal predecessor was passed in 1965, that has subsequently and relentlessly been weakened by federal court rulings and a hostile so-called Department of Justice.

This decimation process has been alarmingly turbo charged by our current federal administration.

To me, there is no democracy when there are naked, outright attempts to suppress voters, through legal maneuvering, intimidation and discrimination.

Luckily, we have the option of codifying voting rights into RI law. This we absolutely must do with H8334 . To be honest, if there are any amendments or discussion as to the specific language in this bill, I feel it could be made even stronger—adding “belts and suspenders” to provide as broad and iron clad protections as possible.

RI has had the foresight to make sure to protect other critical rights by codifying them into state law on important basic democratic rights where the Federal version is threatened to be so diluted and weakened as to be non existent.

Refreshingly, this bill has bipartisan support with RI Senate President Lawson as lead sponsor for the companion bill

Please pass this out of committee and onto the floor for a vote!

Sincerely,
Jessie Kingston