

Honorable Chair Shanley and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

My name is Kristen Chambers and I am a resident of Richmond, RI. I strongly SUPPORT Rep. Kazarian's bill, H8334 (Rhode Island Voting Rights Act).

As a member of the League of Women Voters, whose motto is "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.", I am keenly aware of the importance of protecting the right to vote. Suffragists toiled for 72 years before the 19th Amendment finally passed, giving women the right to vote. It was not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 secured voting rights for adult citizens of all races and genders in the form of federal laws that the 15th and 24th Amendments were fully enforced.

After decades of fighting for the right to vote for Americans who had been disenfranchised for generations, we must not go back.

With the federal government actively engaging in rolling back voting rights, it is extremely necessary to pass H8334 so that Rhode Islanders will be protected against vote dilution, vote suppression, and voter intimidation, and that all Rhode Islanders are ensured equal access to the ballot box.

I urge you to vote this bill out of committee and send it to the House Floor with a recommendation to pass H 8334. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kristen P. Chambers
Richmond, RI