

Steven Sepe

From: Mary Pendergast <marypen211@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 7:59 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support for H8334

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Dear Chair Shanley and Committee,

I am Mary Pendergast from the Sisters of Mercy. I live in Pawtucket.

I'm writing to support H8334 because I actually remember 1965 and the original Voting Rights Act. I remember that it was a landmark point of the civil rights work of the 60's

A few years ago I went to DC to protest with the Poor People's Campaign and I learned that there were actually less voting rights then than were granted in 1965!

It is clear that we cannot allow voting rights to be frittered away, particularly for minorities. H8334 will ensure that RI's voting rights will be protected regardless of what may happen at the federal level.

I wish I could say that we do not need to worry about that, but unfortunately, we do. Racial gerrymandering, exclusion by sex, voter intimidation, language access, access for voters with disabilities

are all on the chopping block and in need of protection.

Thank you for your service to all Rhode Island residents.

Mary Pendergast, RSM