

**Testimony Supporting: H8334**

To the Honorable Evan Shanley:

My name is Nicole Tingle. I am a resident of Providence, RI. I am Secretary of the Rhode Island Coalition of Black Women (RICBW). I am a registered Rhode Island voter. I am in support of H8334.

H8334 (the Rhode Island Voter Rights Act) will protect the right to vote for Rhode Islanders regardless of race, color, disability, gender, or marital status. Voting is a fundamental component of our democracy and we are in a time where that right is being challenged across our nation.

Since the landmark passing of the Federal Voter Rights Act of 1965, there have been ongoing attempts to weaken the ruling through voter suppression tactics to restrict access for eligible voters across the country. We are living in a time where those attempts are heightened. Rhode Island needs to take steps to have anti-discrimination voter protections in place for its citizens.

Passing H8334 is an urgent action to ensure that the voices of Black women and other marginalized communities are also heard on matters that affect the everyday lives of Rhode Island residents.

I urge members of the House State Government and Elections committee to support H8334. It is an urgent action step to ensure that our voices are heard on matters that affect our everyday lives.

Our democracy depends on it.

**Nicole Tingle**