

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Patricia Cole <colepat19@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 11:05 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan  
**Subject:** Strong support for H-8334

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To the Honorable Rep Evan Shanley, Chair and the other members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

Nothing is more important than American citizens' **Right to Vote** ! That right is fundamental to our democracy. It is the reason I am so strongly in favor of H-8334. This bill seeks to codify in our state laws the provisions of the 1963 Civil Rights Act. The importance of safeguarding voter access and participation cannot be emphasized enough. Anything that suppresses the vote - - gerrymandering, limiting ways to vote or requiring stringent and costly means to prove citizenship as the federal Save America Act just passed in the House does - are all attempts to prevent the "wrong" people from voting.

Sadly we can no longer rely on our federal government to protect the right to vote for all US citizens. That protection is now up to the individual states and I am thankful that H-8334 will make sure that RI citizens can vote without impediments.

I urge you to support this bill so important to the future of American democracy!

Respectfully,  
Patricia & Charles Cole  
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