

Regina Clement's Written Testimony Supporting: H8334

To: Chairman Representative Evan P. Shanley and members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

My name is Regina Clement and I am a resident of Providence. My State Senator is Jacob E. Bissaillon, and my State Representative is David Morales. I am providing testimony today as a Rhode Island voter speaking in strong support of **H8334, the RI Voting Rights Act**. At this time, Voting Right of **ALL** Americans are under attack! **The RI Voting Rights Act** will build on the federal protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by stopping Voter Suppression and Intimidation tactics which include aggressive voter roll purges and racial gerrymandering. Stops racial vote dilution when districts or election systems weaken or drown out people's voices based on their race. Additionally, passing this bill improves access for Rhode Islanders to vote by mail or early in-person, makes the election process more modern and secure. These measures will help Rhode Islanders in every community to exercise their right to vote.

As an informed voter I had several incidents occur in my attempt to vote in the 2020 and 2024 Elections. Not only the pandemic made it difficult for me to vote, but the limited amount of ballot boxes in my city became a huge burden. I had to wait in line at Providence City Hall for 3 hours to vote early because there was no ballot box for voters at the site. Additionally, I waited in line for 3 hours because there were only 2 working voting machines at Providence City Hall for hundreds of registered voters. In 2024, several voters in the City of Pawtucket were denied their right to vote by similar tactics like moving polling locations and giving incorrect information about how to resolve the issue. These incidents are hallmarks of voter suppression tactics and this legislation will prevent individuals in positions of power the ability to suppress the vote.

I urge this committee to support H8334 and recommend it's passage. It is the right thing to do to provide access and opportunity to vote for myself and thousands of our fellow Rhode Islanders. It also supports efforts to modernize voter registration, remove barriers to registration for eligible voters and increase voter participation.

Sincerely,
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