



**State of Rhode Island  
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

April 16, 2026

The Hon. Evan Shanley  
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Support for H8334: An Act Relating To Elections -- Rhode Island Voting Rights Act

Dear Chair Shanley:

I write to you in strong support of H8334: An Act Relating To Elections -- Rhode Island Voting Rights Act.

As an immigrant to this country, I hold in the highest possible regard the inalienable right to vote and to make your voice heard in the electoral process. I feel this way because I understand deeply how hard people in this country have fought, both at home and abroad, to reaffirm every American's right to vote. Exactly who has the right to vote has changed many times over the course of our nation's history, almost always leaning towards the direction of progress. In every era, behind every major push forward to enfranchise new classes of people are countless hours spent by advocates who work tirelessly to ensure our nation lives up to our own values.

Now it is our turn to continue that push, and it couldn't come at a more pressing time. The current federal administration is on a war path to destroy voting rights in this country so that they can cling to power. Policies like the SAVE Act and the elimination of birthright citizenship are just two examples of the pernicious policies proposed by the Trump Administration to curtail voting rights for thousands of eligible voters, ironically under the guise of protecting voting rights.

The Rhode Island Voting Rights Act stands up against these baseless attacks by enshrining indelible voting rights afforded to all Rhode Island citizens. By codifying protections for Limited English Proficient and disabled voters, and by establishing clear-cut prohibitions against voter suppression, Rhode Island will send a message that we affirm all citizen's right to vote. But this bill does more than just send a message; it puts measures in place that will guarantee access to the ballot box for all voters in our state.

For these reasons, and for many more, I offer my full support to this bill and urge you to vote it favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island  
CC: Representative Katherine Kazarian