

Rebecca Gale
Written Testimony in Support of S-2132
Regarding the Senate Judiciary Committee
February 26, 2026

Good evening, Chairman LaMountain and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

My name is Rebecca Gale and I am a first-year student at Brown University studying Education and International and Public Affairs. I am writing to express my **support for bill S-2132**, which would move us one step closer to implementing same-day voter registration.

I am from Brookline, Massachusetts and have always been passionate about social justice issues and promoting civic engagement. I remember as a child I would accompany my parents to the polls on Election Day and proudly flaunt my “I Voted” sticker afterwards to strangers walking by. As I got older, as soon as someone I knew turned 18, I would urge them to vote, assuming that as long as they showed up to the polls, their vote would count. I soon learned, however, that Massachusetts has a 10-day voter registration deadline. Sadly, several of my friends did not realize this and thus were unable to vote in our local elections.

Throughout our history, people have advocated tirelessly for voting rights, reforms, and to remove restrictions to ensure that as many eligible voters as possible can participate in the political process on Election Day. Rhode Island’s 30-day voter registration deadline is the longest in the country and only serves to minimize this progress and deter people from fulfilling their civic duty. Now living in Rhode Island, I already know many college students who planned to vote in state, yet missed the registration deadline. Considering the already low voter turnout rates among young adults, Rhode Island’s current law acts as a further deterrent to participating in elections and thus having a say in future legislation that could have direct impacts on their lives.

Same-day voter registration would increase voting accessibility and inclusion which are necessary for the protection of our representative democracy, especially at this time of political uncertainty. I urge you to consider this testimony and vote in support of bill S-2132.

Thank you for your consideration.