



February 26, 2026

The Honorable Committee chair,
Senate Judiciary Committee
Room 313, Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SB 2341 -- Support

Honorable members,

At Progreso Latino, our mission is to help Rhode Island's Latino and immigrant communities achieve greater self-sufficiency and socio-economic progress by providing transformational programs that support personal growth and social change. Progreso Latino writes in strong support of SB 2341.

The right to vote is a core democratic principle in our state as it promotes civic participation, and expands access without requiring physical presence. Many who are disabled cannot easily travel to polling sites, and are very limited to mobility, or can be unsafe. Usually when this is the case many depend and rely on others to submit a paper ballot. Progreso Latino is an institution that proudly serves a wide array of population from older adults and those disabled. Public transportation or assistance with transportation has been a life line for many of our constituents that depend on our direct services.. Unfortunately, it has still been difficult for many as far as a dependable source of transportation. Much of our community cannot make it to our food pantry, assistance programs, adult education classes, and activities. This has been a burden for many of our community members with transportation playing a huge role. We must allow voters to mark ballots in a safe, accessible, and secure environment as it promotes independence, privacy, and participation in our democracy. Disability rights laws are built on the idea that public systems must be accessible. Voting is one of the most important civic systems. If it is not accessible, equality under the law is incomplete.

It is also important to support our military and overseas voters. Many are deployed in combat zones and face unreliable mail service. It is important that members of the military fully participate as overseas voters because they are directly affected by the policies they defend, and voting preserves the democratic principles they serve to protect. Participating in elections can strengthen a service member's sense of citizenship and belonging. It reinforces that they are not separate from society but active members of it.

Thank you to Senator LaMountain and their co-sponsors for their leadership, and thank you to the honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for your consideration of this impactful legislation.

Sincerely,

Jonathan De Jesus

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Community Policy Advocate



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