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**FW: Please Approve Bill # S3143**

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**From** SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>  
**Date** Tue 4/7/2026 11:06 AM  
**To** Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

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**From:** Cathy Solomon <cathy.s.solomon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 7, 2026 10:21 AM  
**To:** Sen. LaMountain, Matthew L. <sen-lamountain@rilegislature.gov>  
**Cc:** SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Approve Bill # S3143

You don't often get email from [cathy.s.solomon@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.s.solomon@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senator LaMountain,

With federal Voting Rights Act protections under sustained attack, states are stepping up by passing strong State Voting Rights Acts; Rhode Island must be one of them. Voting rights are at the core of democracy. As we hear our president and others talk about limiting voting rights, we can see how people might just stay away from the voting booth because they think their vote doesn't count. We can't let that happen.

Like we did with Roe vs Wade, which we also thought would never be overturned, we must protect the Voting Rights Act of 1965 here in Rhode Island.

***The RI VRA would:***

- Prohibit voter suppression and racial vote dilution so communities of color are not denied real voting power.
- Strengthen protections against voter intimidation, deception, and obstruction at the polls.
- Ban discrimination in voting based on religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age, country of ancestral origin, or change in marital status.
- Require language access for voters with limited English proficiency so every eligible voter can participate effectively.
- Create a private right of action and a “democracy canon,” giving people tools in state court and directing judges to interpret election laws in a pro-voter, pro-democracy way.

I am asking you to ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to recommend passage of the bills and urge the full Senate to pass RIVRA this session.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Cathy Solomon  
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