



FW: This professor is asking you to please protect voting rights!!!

From SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

Date Tue 4/7/2026 12:10 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

From: Claire Koen <claire.koen@salve.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 12:10 PM

To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. LaMountain, Matthew L. <sen-lamountain@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: This professor is asking you to please protect voting rights!!!

Some people who received this message don't often get email from claire.koen@salve.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Chair LaMountain and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Claire Koen, and I am writing to express my strong support of the RI Voting Rights Act (S3143). As a professor, I am keenly aware of the mounting threats presented by the current administration. My students have just watched the movie *13th*, which looks at some of the ways in which legislators have moved to marginalize communities over the past 100 years. The right to vote is a key element of citizenship that should never be denied. Please support this bill, which will protect voting rights for all Rhode Islanders, clearly support minority rights for all groups, and impose penalties for those interfering in elections. Federal protections have been eroded significantly since the original federal legislation in 1965. We are witnessing unprecedented threats to our democratic way of life: the current administration has not been shy about their intentions to further limit voting. This is not a partisan issue, this is an American issue, an issue that will affect generations to come. Please act decisively to protect my rights and the rights of my neighbors and uphold the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claire Koen

Middletown, RI