

Dear Committee Chairman and Committee Members-

My name is Jim Kingston and I reside in Providence. I am writing in SUPPORT of Senate bill 3143.

We have all seen the efforts of the current Federal regime to restrict the Constitutional right to voting in our elections. We can not only fight back at this effort at the Federal level but we must also take action here locally in Rhode Island to protect the rights of all eligible Rhode Islanders.

Every eligible Rhode Islander must have equal access to the ballot in all of our various elections, as a matter of Constitutional right. Having a state level Voting Rights Act buttresses safeguards currently in place at the Federal level and enables us to have more control over our local elections.

We are in the battle of our lifetimes over retaining our democracy and it is imperative for our legislature to be at the vanguard of those efforts here in Rhode Island- if we lose our democracy, then nothing else really matters. Many other bills are important, but this bill is critical.

Thank you for supporting this bill and voting it out of Committee for a vote on the floor.