

Senate Committee on Judiciary
State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
RE: In Support of Senate Bill S3143

My name is Kelly Doran, I live in Johnston, Rhode Island, and I am writing in Support of The Rhode Island Voting Rights Act (S3143) . I am a proud member of The Women's Policy Institute through the Womans Fund Rhode Island, and a neighbor to all.

I'm writing in support of The RIVRA because we are seeing unprecedented stripping of rights at the Federal level that cannot be ignored. We cannot wait to pass this Bill.

As a queer, unmarried woman living in this great State, I ask for your support not only for myself, but for all who identify as female, queer, or part of the LGBTQ+ community.

My dear, dear friend started their transition from female to male 5 years ago, and since that time has obtained a divorce. This means they have their birth name, married name, and chosen name. Their legal chosen name needs to be enough to access voting, easily, because the journey to obtain this name was not.

This means they have 3 birth certificates with 3 separate names on each, as one does when they marry or have a name change. This dear friend of mine works hard for UPS and pays their taxes. They take care of their non-biological child. They are human, and they deserve ease of access when voting. They have to struggle every day just to exist in a world that does not want to see them to begin with. They are a truly patriotic person and love the State in which they reside. We are not looking to change how people vote. We are looking to ensure that these brave citizens have the same rights as all eligible voters, and with ease.

I want all of us to be seen. I want all of us who do not necessarily align with our birth markers to be heard. I want no fear of harm or retaliation at the polls for My Dear Friend, and all who dare live their authentic selves. I want to protect the fact that the birth certificate that they have now, with their chosen name, which they changed legally, is enough to vote with, and with honor. The courage and strength it takes to live the life needed to survive and thrive should not be a barrier to voting. Rhode Island needs to codify the RIVRA now, to protect our most vulnerable State Residents, these humans we love and honor.

Thank you for your time today.

Kindly,
Kelly Doran