

RE: Support for S3143 /RI Voting Rights Act

Dear Chairman LaMountain and Committee Members:

As a RI voter, I strongly support the RI Voting Rights Act (S3143). Voting rights are being attacked at the federal level with the Save America Act potentially making it much more difficult for certain groups to vote. These groups include women who have changed their name when they got married, working people who may not have time to gather extra documents, people with disabilities, and people whose first language is not English.

With the current erosion of the hard-won civil rights of the 1960's and 1970's at the federal level, it is increasingly important to protect voting rights at the state level. This means making laws that protect against voter suppression, intimidation or dilution. The RI VRA will also allow the Attorney General and other groups or individuals to take legal action against jurisdictions that attempt to limit some groups from voting or that use intimidation to prevent people from voting. Sadly, the tactic of intimidation is being used against citizens and non-citizens alike at the federal level.

It is critically important for you to support and pass S3143 to protect our basic voting rights in RI now when voting rights are threatened at the federal level.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Naomi Kramer
Providence, RI