

Re: Support- S3143

Dear Chairman LaMountain,

My name is Nicole P. Dyszlewski and I am a resident of Riverside. I am writing to express my strong support for S3143.

I am in support of S3143 because I was taught that voting is more than a right, it is a core American value. I was taught this as a child in school. I was taught this by our Constitution. I was taught this in law school. And now, I teach this to law students about to become the next generation of advocates, legislators, policymakers, and judges.

S3143 will codify fundamental voting protections at the state level that are in danger of being further weakened at the federal one. As a lawyer, and as a race law scholar, we need to send a clear message that our state will loudly remove any discriminatory and wrong-headed barriers to voting. And we need to do this now.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was one of the most successful pieces of civil rights legislation in our country's history. It almost single-handedly worked to dismantle voting suppression in the Jim Crow South.

The federal VRA was dealt a clear blow in the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. It is now in danger of being further gutted by the Supreme Court.

At the same time, Congress is considering the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act. Both developments have me concerned. And they should have you concerned, too.

Our state must join the nine other states who have enacted state voting rights acts.

I hope the Senate Judiciary Committee will pass S3143,

Thank you,
Nicole P. Dyszlewski
Riverside, RI