
Please Pass the RIVRA!

From sara archambault <saraarchambault@gmail.com>

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

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Dear Senate Judiciary Committee -

My name is Sara Archambault and I am a resident of Providence, RI. I'm also a documentary filmmaker who has made two films about election administration that are in circulation nationally. One film, *The Officials* made with TIME Studios, examines threats to election officials across the country. The other film, called *No Time To Fail*, was broadcast nationally on PBS's *America Reframed* and is now in educational distribution. *No Time To Fail* was an in depth look behind the scenes at what it took for Rhode Island's election teams to successfully administer the 2020 election. With that project, I was able to witness first hand the incredible, dedicated election workforce we are lucky to have in Rhode Island. I also learned a lot about what we need in place to make sure voting rights are safe and secure in our state.

From my understanding, with no state law outlining the requirements about access to elections here, the RIVRA will protect voting rights for the citizens of RI regardless of race, gender, ability, language, class or political affiliation. It will require access aides for people who need them, like providing ballots in Spanish and other qualifying languages. It will provide remedies for those who feel under threat at the ballot box. And it will reaffirm the successful protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in ways that continue to serve all Rhode Islanders despite the ways in which federal court rulings and a hostile Justice Department have tried to weaken it.

In this time when we can no longer rely on the federal government to protect our rights, it becomes the responsibility of the states to protect citizens and provide the conditions and resources for our flourishing. This task now falls to you. Please pass the RIVRA for all Rhode Islanders and demonstrate what real state-level leadership can look like.

Thank you!

Sara

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(She/Hers)

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