
RE: In Support for Senate Bill 3143

From Taylor Kahn-Perry <tkahnperry@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/7/2026 12:53 PM

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

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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Taylor Kahn-Perry

Date: April 7, 2026

Subject: In Support for Senate Bill 3143

Dear Chair LaMountain and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Taylor Kahn-Perry, and I am a resident of the West End of Providence in Senate District 6. **I am writing to express my strong support for S3143**, the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act.

As a local youth worker who supports high school students to develop advocacy and leadership skills and a Women's Policy Institute Fellow with the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, I spend my days working to build a strong culture of civic engagement throughout our state. Despite my strong belief in the power of civic engagement, I am clear-eyed about its limits: Even the most effective civic engagement efforts are insufficient without strong voting rights.

The bedrock of our democratic society is the right to vote, and I am deeply concerned that without immediate action, the voting rights of Rhode Islanders are at grave risk.

Passing S3143 is a practical step that will put into state law similar protections to those provided by the landmark federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, ensuring Rhode Islanders are protected against discrimination in voting, no matter what happens at the federal level.

As federal attacks on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 continue, Rhode Islander can't wait around and hope it "doesn't get too bad" at the federal level. Rhode Island needs to act now to ensure Rhode Islanders can access the right to vote without discrimination, which is why I support the proposed amendments to S3143 outlined in the written testimony of the Campaign Legal Center that change the effective date for all sections of the bill to "upon passage," except the language access, database and provisional ballot sections, all of which will require time to implement.

S3143 does not experiment with untested ideas or overly burden hardworking election workers with unnecessary tasks. Instead, passing a state Voting Rights Act is a proven, straightforward, and effective approach taken by 9 other states already in a pivotal moment for our democracy.

I hope the Senate Judiciary Committee will pass S3143 without delay. Our democracy is on the line.

Taylor Kahn-Perry

West End, Providence, 02909