

Regina Clement's Testimony Opposing H7071

To: Chairman Shanley and Members of the House State Government & Elections Committee:

My name is Regina Clement and I am a resident of Providence. My State Senator is Jacob Bissaillon and my State Representative is David Morales. I am providing testimony today as a Rhode Island voter speaking in strong opposition to **H7071**. *H7071 - AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS* will reverse some of the policies the state put in place to ensure that there is secure voting access during our elections. This bill restricts Rhode Islanders to voting early in-person. This legislation is designed to suppress the vote of Rhode Islanders in every community that exercise their right to vote.

As an informed voter, I am aware that many Rhode Islanders are disadvantaged and discouraged to exercise their right to vote due to conflicts with their work hours or family responsibilities. Reducing the number of early voting days from 20 days to 14 days limits the ability to vote and disenfranchises voters. This is the hallmark of voter suppression tactics and creates an environment that doesn't ensure a culture of voting.

I urge this committee to vote **NO** on H7071. Again, it disenfranchises Rhode Island voters and creates barriers to early voting for eligible voters and decreases voter participation.

Sincerely,
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