

Testimony on H 5514—An Action Relating to Elections—Mail Ballots

Position: Support

Common Cause Rhode Island supports H 5514 that would eliminate the requirement that ballots used during the early voting process be labeled as mail ballots. This is a vestige of how the early voting process was created as part of the emergency mail ballot process.

Early voting has become a popular option for voters since it began in 2020. In the most recent General Election 33% of voters, or 171,848 people, voted early. The experience is almost identical to Election Day voting except for the confusing language on the actual ballot.

We note that another way to achieve this would be to amend Title 17 to add early voting to Chapter 19, adding all the protections and procedures afforded to polling place voters to early voters. That would negate the need for H 5084 as well.