

Steven Sepe

From: Sara V <saravieira803@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 12:34 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee; Rep. Nardone, George A.
Subject: Oppose HB 5709

My name is Sara Vieira and I am from Coventry.

I oppose HB 5709. There are several arguments against maintaining a permanent mail ballot list, where voters automatically receive ballots by mail for every election without needing to request them each time. Here's a breakdown of the key concerns:

- 1. Voter Roll Accuracy:** Permanent mail ballot lists rely on voter registration records being up-to-date. People move, pass away, or become ineligible to vote (e.g., due to felony convictions in some states), but these changes aren't always reflected promptly in the system. This can lead to ballots being sent to outdated addresses or deceased individuals, increasing the risk of errors or fraud, even if unintentional. The voter rolls in RI are not up to date- with people having multiple registrations in the RI SOS database.
- 2. Security Risks:** Ballots mailed to old addresses could be intercepted by someone else, especially in multi-unit housing or transient areas. While voter fraud is rare, critics argue that permanent lists create more opportunities for ballots to be misused compared to systems where voters actively request them, signaling current intent and location. The voter rolls are not kept up to date with people who have moved and are registered to vote in another state.
- 3. Administrative Burden and Cost:** Maintaining accurate permanent lists requires constant updates and resources. States must verify addresses, remove ineligible voters, and handle returned mail, all of which can strain election budgets. Critics argue this effort could be better spent on in-person voting infrastructure or targeted mail-in options for those who need them (e.g., elderly or disabled voters).

Thank you,
Mrs. Sara Vieira

4.