

I am writing to express my strong opposition to bill H 6099 relating to elections-regulations of voters. It is discriminatory to require a driver's license or state identification card to vote and will deprive many American's the right to vote. Approximately 11% of U.S. Citizens do not have a valid government issued photo identification and obtaining such ID is costly. Not only does one have to pay for a photo identification, but they may also have to pay to travel and for other documents that are required to obtain a photo identification. This cost can range from \$75 - \$175 depending on what is required. This also causes an undue burden on the elderly and those with disabilities or in rural areas who do not have access to transportation.

Voter ID laws are also discriminatory in nature with approximately 25% of African American citizens do not have a government issued ID as opposed to approximately 8% of whites. Requiring a photo ID, will negatively impact Black, Indigenous, People of Color in Rhode Island and will incur the state of Rhode Island sizeable costs to implement the law. Money that could instead be spent by providing access to free IDs to those who wish to obtain them. If you wish to make this a requirement for voting, then state identification cards, the cost to obtain birth certification, etc. should be free.

Fraud is not an issue in our elections, but it is instead something people like to try use as a scapegoat. Voter ID laws are an attempt to silence minority votes who have in recent elections, come out in numbers to oppose discriminatory and racist practices in our government.