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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT 21 – H 5983 JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSITTUTION OF THE STATE – OF SUFFRAGE March 15, 2021

The ACLU of RI appreciates the opportunity to support same-day voter registration in Rhode Island. As an organization committed to ensuring that all qualified individuals have expansive, appropriate, and equitable opportunities for participation in the franchise, we believe that same-day voter registration both modernizes the voting process and makes voting both convenient and accessible for Rhode Island residents.

Central to both the voting process and democratic and civic engagement is ensuring that all individuals who can cast a ballot are able to do so. The enactment of same-day registration in Rhode Island would streamline the voting process, ease the burden on voters, and encourage and bolster enhanced voter participation. Currently, over 20 states have same-day registration, including a majority of the New England states, making the concept very mainstream.

The modernization of Rhode Island's electoral process should include measures which maximize the ability for voter participation, and same-day voter registration has been proven to be one of the most effective ways to do so. We know that a technical amendment is needed to ensure that this proposal does what it is intended to do, but with that amendment, we strongly urge passage of this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.