



**Testimony Re:** S-608 to approve and publish and submit to the electors a proposition of Amendment to the Constitution – Same Day Voter Registration  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**

**April 4, 2023**

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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT coordinates the Right from the Start Campaign, a state policy coalition led by eight organizations to advance state policies and budget priorities that will help families with young children.

**Both Rhode Island KIDS COUNT and the Right from the Start Campaign strongly support Sen. DiMario's bill S-608** which would put a question on the ballot for voters to amend the RI Constitution to allow for same day voter registration.

Parents with young children and early educators often work long hours, are very likely to live in economically unstable households, and have additional caregiving responsibilities that can make it difficult for them to find time to register to vote.

**Research indicates that low-income families with young children have high residential instability due to housing problems and/or relationship changes.** One major national study of low-income families, the "Fragile Families Study," found that two thirds of mothers **moved one or more times in the child's first three years of life and 45% moved at least once in the child's first year of life.**

*The Same Day Voter Registration bill* is an important step in updating our voter registration process so more voters can participate in elections. Amending the state constitution and laws to allow for same day voter registration will bring Rhode Island into line with 22 states across the U.S.

We need more parents and early educators to participate in elections so their voices can be heard and represented in decision-making bodies that establish policy and allocate resources for children.