



RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT
ONE UNION STATION
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903
401/351-9400 • 401/351-1758 (FAX)

Testimony Re: S-2216 to approve and publish and submit to the electors a proposition of Amendment to the Constitution – Persons Entitled to Vote
Senate Judiciary Committee
February 15, 2022
Leanne Barrett, Senior Policy Analyst



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 S-2216 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.

The Same Day Voter Registration bill is the first 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.