

*“Let Rhode Island Vote” Media Briefing
March 10, 2021*

Remarks of David Sherman, Scituate

Thank you for inviting me to speak today about the importance of early voting and voting by mail.

There are many workers who do not fit the mold of being able to work from 9-5. This makes it harder for these workers to get to the polls.

That’s why I’m here today. I am a member of UAW Local 2121 and work as a dealer at Foxwoods Casinos in Connecticut.

I am also a health and safety representative for my local. Between my work shifts and my involvement with my union, I work 11-12 hours a day.

It is extremely hard for me to get to the polls on Election Day to vote. Any employee who works 10, 12 hours shifts has the same problem.

The polls are only open until 8 pm and there is no way that I can get to the polls to vote after my shift ends and I commute back home.

With early voting in place this November, I was able to work around my work schedule and vote on a day that was more convenient to me.

I have voted in every election my entire life. It is extremely important for me to cast my vote and have my voice heard, but it was getting harder and harder each year due to my work schedule.

With early voting, there isn’t as much stress trying to figure out when I can get to the polls to vote without having to worry about taking a vacation day or missing work.

My wife works in a group home, and with the opportunity to vote by mail, it was much easier and safer for her clients to request a mail ballot and cast her vote by mail.

I am here today in support of these bills to expand our voting rights so that all of us can take part in elections and cast our votes.