



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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July 14, 2021

The Honorable Daniel Ryan  
The Joint Committee on Election Laws,  
House Chair  
24 Beacon St., Room 443  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Barry Finegold  
The Joint Committee on Election Laws, Senate Chair  
24 Beacon St., Room 511-A  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: H.811** *An Act to create a commission examining child disenfranchisement and recommending alternatives*

Dear Chairman Ryan, Chairman Finegold, and esteemed Members of the Committee,

I write today expressing my support for H.811, *An Act to create a commission examining child disenfranchisement and recommending alternatives*. This critical legislation will convene experts to perform a thorough analysis and make recommendations on children's voting rights and access to civic engagement.

An educated and well-informed electorate and transparent voting procedures are indeed vital to a well-functioning democracy. This legislation provides a framework for thoughtful analysis by engaging a diverse array of constituencies and key stakeholders. The commission will involve at least 11 members, including legislators, civic education groups, a developmental pediatrician, a guardian ad litem, and academics with peer-reviewed papers on voting age. Convening this body serves as a common-sense measure to evaluate this policy matter and make comprehensive and deliberate recommendations on child voting rights and access to civic engagement.

I respectfully request that the committee advance H.811 with a favorable report. This legislation and the commission it brings together create an inclusive process to evaluate this matter and safeguard our democracy.

Thank you to the committee for your considerate and thorough review of the legislation before you. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions.

Respectfully,

Jay Livingstone  
State Representative  
8th Suffolk District