



Cynthia M. Mendes

Rhode Island

State Senator, SD-018 (D)

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RI Legislative Scorecard 2021-2022

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote

Vote

1. Allows the division of motor vehicles to issue "driver privilege cards and permits" to applicants "unable to establish legal presence in the United States."

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H7939 · 06/23/2022



2. Restricts the lawful sale of firearms or ammunition to persons 21 years of age or older, with the exemption of full-time law enforcement, state marshals, and members of the U.S. military.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H7457 · 06/14/2022



3. Grants the ability to apply ex parte for a court order authorizing the "interception of any wire, electronic, or oral communications" based on alleged felony violations of the Uniform Act on Prevention for Human Trafficking.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · S2706 · 04/26/2022



4. Permits early voting by mail without an excuse, removes the requirement that mail ballots be signed by a notary public or two witnesses, and directs every municipality to maintain at least one ballot drop box.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · S2007 · 04/26/2022



5. Urges the federal government to sign and ratify the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · S2423 · 05/03/2022



6. Increases the minimum wage from \$11.50 per hour to \$15.00 per hour, over a 4-year period.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H5130 · 05/18/2021



Scorecard Votes: 0%



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\$295,579

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 30, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. "Driver Privilege Cards" for Illegal Aliens

H7939 allows the division of motor vehicles to issue "driver privilege cards and permits" to applicants "unable to establish legal presence in the United States."

Persons unlawfully present in the United States ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Rhode Island, let alone be considered eligible for a state-issued form of identification or permit. According to Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the authority to establish a uniform rule of naturalization. Rather than pursue unconstitutional "sanctuary policy," states should use their powers reserved under the 10th Amendment to address the crisis of illegal immigration and provide for their own public safety.

2. Restricting Firearms Purchases to Ages 21+

H7457 restricts the lawful sale of firearms or ammunition to persons 21 years of age or older, with the exemption of full-time law enforcement, state marshals, and members of the U.S. military.

The 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that the fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms "shall not be infringed," regardless of an adult citizen's age.

3. Expanding Government Wiretapping

S2706 grants the state's attorney general the ability to apply ex parte to a court for an order authorizing the "interception of any wire, electronic, or oral communications" based on alleged felony violations of the Uniform Act on Prevention for Human Trafficking.

This bill expands the government's ability to conduct unconstitutional "secret searches" of American citizens without providing them notice of lawful authority or purpose. It undermines the rights of the people guaranteed specifically by the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

4. Permanent Early, Mail-In Voting

S2007 permits early voting by mail without an excuse, removes the requirement that mail ballots be signed by a notary public or two witnesses, and directs every municipality to maintain at least one ballot drop box.

Permanent early, vote-by-mail schemes enable electoral fraud, which disenfranchises eligible voters. States should instead exercise their authority, under Article 1, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, to implement free, fair, and secure elections, providing equal protection of the right of American citizens to vote.

5. United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

S2423 urges the federal government to sign and ratify the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

This resolution seeks to disarm the United States, which violates the federal government's constitutional purpose to provide for the common defense of the American people. Further, the U.S. should rescind its membership in the United Nations, whose founding Charter erodes American national sovereignty by establishing a framework for expansive global governance towards a one-world state.

6. Forced Minimum Wage Increases

H5130 increases the minimum wage from \$11.50 per hour to \$15.00 per hour, over a 4-year period.

Forced minimum wage laws are anti-constitutional acts of government-imposed theft that violate the right to freedom of contract between employers and employees. They disparage the principles of both the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, which were intended to protect "private property" and guarantee "equal protection of the laws" for all Americans.