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ACLU OF RI POSITION: AMEND

**TESTIMONY ON 24-H 7670,
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE COLLEGE CRUSADE SCHOLARSHIP
May 7, 2024**

The ACLU of RI recognizes the laudable and relatively modest goals of this bill, changing the name of the College Crusade program and addressing the status of any financial aid received vis a vis the state's other scholarship programs.

Another section of the bill also requires Local Education Agencies to provide the renamed program with "individual-level access to student information systems and other data related to established college readiness metrics," including attendance, school discipline and other records. We presume that any such information will only be provided in accordance with the confidentiality protections of the Federal Educational Records and Privacy Act (FERPA). However, before authorizing the release of this relatively substantial amount of personal data, we would urge that the bill specify that the student will be formally advised that all this information will be shared as an element of participation in the program.

We realize that this may already be standard procedure, but in light of the explicit language in the bill mandating the sharing of detailed student information by LEAs, we believe a notification requirement should also be codified. It could be done by adding language along the following lines on Page 3, at the end of line 10: "Any student seeking to participate shall be advised that this information will be provided to the program."

We hope you will consider this suggested addition, and thank you for your consideration of our views.