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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 25-H 5123, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT February 11, 2025

With the rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence technologies and systems across all industries, it only makes sense that the application of AI in government should be subject to stringent transparency and vetting requirements. For these reasons we are supportive of and appreciate the intent of this legislation, which serves to create a regulatory structure for the use of AI in government agencies and aims to achieve transparency in such use.

In particular, we note our support for provisions in this bill which would require assurances that AI being used neither generates discriminatory results nor has an unlawful disparate impact based on a protected characteristic. Because one of the more concerning aspects of AI technology and systems is the way that its formulations may perpetuate dangerous and discriminatory patterns, we believe this protection is critical to guarantee that the impact of any AI use is truly neutral and does not exacerbate existing disparities.

Technology has been routinely outpacing the government's ability to regulate it, with increasingly serious impacts on the rights of individuals. For these reasons, we support this bill which seeks to get ahead of the curve and provide a proper legal framework for AI use. Thank you for your consideration.