

The Just Criminal Justice Group, LLC



Michael A. DiLauro, Esq.
Owner/Manager

February 8, 2024

Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairperson, House Judiciary Committee
The Statehouse
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill No. 7099 BY Ajello, Craven, Tanzi, Cruz, Batista, Felix, Knight, McEntee, Bennett, Biah ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-- POLICE RELATIONSHIP ACT OF 2015 {LC3712/1}

Dear Chairman Craven & Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write in enthusiastic support of the legislation referenced above, the purpose of which is to enhance and renew the COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-- POLICE RELATIONSHIP ACT OF 2015 (CCPRA) by requiring: 1) that an annual study by an outside agency chosen by RIDOT be conducted with input from the CCPRA advisory committee on traffic stop and search data related to racial disparities 2) a monthly review and annual reporting by law enforcement agencies statewide on the traffic stop and search data 3) create a twelve (12) member CCPRA advisory committee to advise the office of highway safety on all matters pertaining to the committee's duties relating to stop and search data.

This support is informed by having had the singular privilege of serving as the Public Defender's designee to the working group created, convened, and lead by then Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare. That group, made up of a diverse group of law enforcement, community members, and other stakeholders, working assiduously over the course of several years, arrived at a series of thoughtful recommendations that finally resulted in the enactment of the CCPRA in 2015. By working together, law enforcement and the community gained a greater understanding of each other's concerns, ultimately agreeing on language that honors the community's desire for just stop and search procedures, while permitting law enforcement to maintain public safety and implement best practices. Numerous organizations and individuals worked on and supported the legislation creating the CCPRA including: the R.I. State Police; R.I. for Community & Justice; the R.I. Civil Rights Roundtable; the R.I. Police Chiefs Association; the R.I. Commission for Human Rights; the City of Providence; the

NAACP Providence Branch; the R.I. State Council of Churches; the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island; the R.I. Council for Muslim Advancement; and many others. ¹

After its quiet expiration in 2020, it is high time to enhance and renew the CCPRA, the end result of which will be as originally intended: 1) improved community police relations 2) increase in public safety and 3) trust in the important work done by law enforcement in the community.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael A. DiLauro, Esq.

Sent via e-mail attachment to HouseJudicary@rilegislature.gov

¹ For source material see the websites of the R.I. Police Chiefs Association and RIDOT, both visited on 1/23/24.
<https://ripolicechiefs.org/comprehensive-community-police-relations/>;
http://www.dot.ri.gov/Safety/CCPRA_safety.php