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Chief Sidney Wordell, Ret.

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill No. H7216 Relating to Criminal Procedure – Identification and Apprehension of Criminals.

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association (RIPCA) to voice our strong support for the House bill referenced above regarding the submission of seized firearms for testing and tracing.

The practice of examining firearms seized by police departments to be compared to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) is a common practice by most departments in Rhode Island but will now be solidified into law and assure that all agencies are conducting these proper examinations. As indicated in the legislation Rhode Island has options on where the firearm or test-fired cartridge cases can be analyzed and should help to alleviate any backlog of examinations.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of the RIPCA and as always, I am available for any follow-up questions you or the committee may have, and we are willing to continue discussions with the bill's sponsors.

Respectfully submitted,

Sidney Wordell
Executive Director
Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association