



**DONALD R. GREBIEN**  
MAYOR

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Representative Robert E. Craven  
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House Judiciary Committee  
RI State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write in full support of bill H 7747 – Relating to criminal offenses – threats and extortion. In the wake of current threats to poll workers and election officials, throughout our nation, it is time for Rhode Island to enact a bill that will protect and allow our democracy to take place without the fear of threats or intimidation.

Listing poll workers and election officials as “public officials” makes perfect sense so that they can be afforded the same protections as elected officials, judges and law enforcement officers. In the wake of the 2020 Presidential Election and the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, many of these workers (nationally) have been subjected to harassment and violent threats. Let’s not let that happen here in our state.

Many states have already enacted legislation like this very bill that would protect poll workers and election officials. Those include: Oregon, Wisconsin and Washington.

H 7747 is a good bill and it is my hope that it will be passed and signed into law. I thank the committee for their consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. McGill  
Registrar