

March 14, 2023
Rhode Island General Assembly
House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Craven, Vice Chairs McEntee and Knight, and Members,

The University of Rhode Island chapter of the American Association of University Professors, representing the university's full-time faculty, supports the passage of House Bill 7575, "An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Obscene and Objectionable Publications and Shows."

If enacted by the General Assembly, this would provide an affirmative defense against obscenity charges for higher education educators and librarians engaged in their professional duties. Such protection is important to safeguard academic freedom and free speech, and to protect the rights of Rhode Island students to access and learn to understand complex information. Please contact me if there is any additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,



Dr. Miriam Reumann
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