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**Statement by AAA Northeast  
Before The House Judiciary Committee  
March 21, 2024**

My name is Mary Maguire, and as Vice President of Public/Government Affairs, I am writing to provide testimony on behalf of AAA Northeast, serving almost 530,000 members in Rhode Island.

AAA Northeast strongly supports the enactment of HB 7631 which would extend the lookback period for drunken driving offenses from five years to ten. In our opinion, extending the look back period will significantly reduce instances of alcohol impaired driving in the state of Rhode Island.

Drunk driving is an increasingly serious issue both nationally and in Rhode Island and is a major contributing factor to traffic fatalities which are now at a 16-year high. According to the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, from 2011-2020, 241 people were killed in alcohol related crashes. Further, the percentage of people killed in Rhode Island in alcohol related crashes is one of the highest in the United States. Indeed, federal data (FARS) indicates that approximately 49% of fatal crashes in Rhode Island in 2020 involved an alcohol impaired driver.

Repeat offenders have also been traditionally overrepresented in impaired driving arrests, representing about one-third of arrests. Moreover, Rhode Island has one of the shortest "lookback" periods in the Northeast. Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire all have ten-year lookback periods while Vermont and Massachusetts consider lifetime records.

Clearly, Rhode Island has a crisis in terms of alcohol related crashes. In our opinion, enactment of this legislation will deter instances of alcohol impaired driving and save lives. Accordingly, AAA Northeast strongly supports enactment of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Maguire".

Mary Maguire, Vice President, Public/Government Affairs  
AAA Northeast