



RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Office of General Counsel

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April 24, 2024

Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

The Honorable Robert E. Craven
House Committee on the Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House #7567: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure - Courts - Domestic Assault

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary and the District Court to express our support for House Bill #7567, scheduled to be heard and considered this evening before the House Judiciary Committee. If enacted, this bill would amend R.I. Gen Laws §§ 8-8.1-3, 12-29-4 and 15-15-3 to require that any prosecution for violation of a protective order be handled by attorneys who are self-certified as having successfully completed a specialized domestic violence prosecution training course.

Protective orders issued to an individual pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws §§ 8-8.1-3, 12-29-4 and 15-15-3, are meant to protect a person who has experienced domestic violence from the perpetrator of that violence. A protective order prohibits the abuser from contacting, assaulting, or otherwise interfering with the victim, whether on the street, at home, or anywhere else. Violation of a protective order is an indicator of increased risk to the victim of potential future abuse. The District Court supports this bill to ensure that attorneys who prosecute these matters are educated and informed on the prosecution of domestic violence matters, as well as the physical and psychological effects of domestic violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill. I am always available should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kelly
General Counsel