

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Corrections

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The Honorable Robert E. Craven Sr.
House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

February 4, 2025

Re: H5071 – Relating to Criminal Offenses – Threats and Extortion

Dear Chairperson Craven:

This evening the House Judiciary Committee will consider House Bill #5071. This bill would consider state government caseworkers or investigators as "public officials" for purposes of the prohibition on making threats to public officials. The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) supports this legislation.

The Department interprets this legislation to apply to our clinical social workers who perform noble work in an underappreciated profession. These dedicated professionals work diligently to ensure the incarcerated population receives clinically appropriate treatment. They often find themselves vulnerable to the potential of threats and have indeed encountered instances when threats have been made. This legislation provides assurances to those who may consider a career in this honorable profession and those who continue to demonstrate their commitment to this field.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Salisbury
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Representatives Read, Carson, Hull, Santucci, Serpa, McNamara, and Shanley
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House