



Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
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Hon. Robert E. Craven
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
Email: rep-craven@rilegislature.gov

RE: SUPPORT FOR 2025-H 5223 -- THE RHODE ISLAND CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT

Dear Chairman Craven,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent now over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our partnership of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I wish to express our **strong support for H-5223** which is on the docket this evening.

In the IBEW Constitution, the literal first line of the IBEW Declaration is as follows: *Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights and human security.* It does not speak of electricians, union members, Americans or any other category of people that one could possibly be slotted in. It clearly states humans. This Declaration is one that I take most seriously.

Since its inception, the IBEW has been fighting for all people, in all walks of life for a myriad of diverse issues. The oath I swore to uphold nearly four decades ago assures that the commitment penned over a century ago, that we have made to all humans, will not diminish as time ticks by.

When I first came across this particular issue, I was astounded by the fact that our Rhode Island Constitution is little more than a suggestion of rights. It is difficult to understand why any document of such great importance, would not have built in language for all people to have a remedy when their rights are violated.

In conclusion, I strongly urge positive movement on this most important bill. Although not one of my own pieces of legislation, I am certain this bill will provide much needed avenues for those who are violated and is as equally important as any piece of legislation I will ask to be introduced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager

Cc: Committee Members

Richard Sinapi, Esq

Roberta DiMezza, Committee Clerk