



State of Rhode Island COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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TESTIMONY

BILL NO.: 2025 H 5223
BILL TITLE: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Rhode Island Civil Rights Enforcement Act
PRIMARY SPONSOR: Representative Craven
COMMITTEE: House Judiciary

The Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights (“Commission”) supports this bill.

The Commission is the state’s primary antidiscrimination law enforcement agency charged with investigating allegations of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and delivery of services. Among the laws over which the Commission has jurisdiction are Title 28, Chapter 5 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, the Fair Employment Practices Act, which prohibits discrimination on a number of bases, including race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion.

H 5223 provides an enforcement mechanism for the rights provided under the Rhode Island Constitution. It would provide remedies for state and municipal discrimination that is outside the jurisdiction of the Commission and ensure that the rights set forth in the Rhode Island Constitution are not empty promises.

For these reasons, the Commission urges that the Committee pass this bill.

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