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February 25, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill No. H5220 Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles –
Comprehensive Community – Police Relationship Act of 2015.**

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association (RIPCA) to voice our opposition to the proposed legislation as written. The House bill referenced above, which would amend the Comprehensive Community Police Relationship Act of 2015, requiring data collection of motor vehicle stops as well as searches of vehicles and individuals.

The RIPCA has always supported the concept of collecting data, especially race data on the operators of m/v stops conducted across the entire state and we continue to support that today. In fact, every police agency has continued to collect all the data required under previous legislation even though the requirement had sunset approximately 3 years ago. Agencies continue to analyze car stops and searches to identify any disparities and addresses through in-service training or counseling.

As you are aware the RIPCA has been a leader in the state in implementing model policies regarding car stops and searches and most recently the implementation of body worn cameras on all front-line officers and their immediate supervisors! The implementation policy for camera use requires random review of every officer, every month to look for violations of policy, including racial profiling.

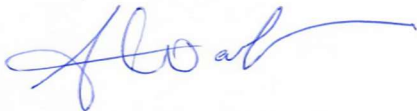
The RIPCA has worked over the last few years with legislators to implement a statewide records management system which would allow for the standardization of collected data, which has often been criticized by researchers studying RI's car stop data. Unfortunately, the data collected over the last 3 years will be susceptible to the same criticism, however the RI Department of Transportation has an open RFP to conduct an analysis of this data with the same guidelines as previously required. We would suggest the data from the previous study be rolled into one study to include the last 3 years to give a much larger sample size.

Under the currently proposed legislation the accuracy rate is reduced to 85%. In speaking to researchers conducting these types of studies they have stated that a reduction from 95% accuracy would be irresponsible and would keep some from conducting such an analysis.

Lastly, the RIPCA has consistently suggested that there needs to be an analysis of the driving population as opposed to the benchmark by which each department is judged currently on the census data, which in and of itself has been criticized for its accuracy. Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of the RIPCA and as always, I am available for any follow-up questions you or the committee may have, and we are willing to continue discussions with the bill's sponsors.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Wordell', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sidney Wordell
Executive Director
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association