



RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2025

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

RE: House Bill No. H5442 Relating to Criminal Offenses – Public Utilities.

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association (RIPCA) to voice our support for the House bill referenced above, which would expand the crime of false reporting to include shootings or other dangerous events. The proposed legislation recognizes a loophole in the current statute that doesn't account for the false reporting of a shooting, existence of explosives or dangerous substances, to cause terror, anxiety, unrest or fear which causes a law enforcement response. Individuals or groups that make such assertions do so without regard to the safety and welfare of first responding officers and the public we serve.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Wordell", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Sidney Wordell
Executive Director
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association

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