

Chairperson Craven and Members of House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 5666, which would mandate the arming of campus police at Rhode Island public higher education institutions.

While I understand the intention behind this bill, I believe that mandating the arming of campus police officers could have unintended consequences. Requiring all campus police to carry firearms may lead to the loss of officers who are either not prepared for or unwilling to take on this responsibility. It is crucial that we consider the individual readiness and willingness of each officer, as not all officers may feel comfortable or equipped to handle such an important duty. I believe that the decision to arm campus police should remain optional and based on the preferences and capabilities of each individual officer.

For the safety of our campus communities and the well-being of our officers, I urge you not to allow this bill to advance to the House floor for a vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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