

Lisa Chille  
29 Cole Drive  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

March 23, 2025

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

**I am writing to express my support for House Bill 5666 which mandates arming campus police at public higher education institutions.**

Campus police officers should carry firearms. The general duties of the Campus Police Officer are to enforce laws, make arrests, maintain order and security. In addition, the job requires patrolling on foot and motor vehicle, inspect campus buildings and grounds, direct and control traffic, patrol parking areas for safety and protection against theft. These responsibilities are the same duties required of any law enforcement officer. Therefore, the campus police officers should have the same tools at their disposal to be successful in carrying out their job. Currently, the only protection the officers have is a radio, oleoresin capsicum, expandable baton and handcuffs.

My spouse is a Campus Police Officer at Community College of Rhode Island. Prior to being hired at CCRI, he spent twenty years as an officer in an accredited Rhode Island police agency. As the wife of a campus police officer, I am extremely worried for the safety of my husband, his colleagues, faculty, students and staff as he executes his duties, especially as active shooter situations are becoming more commonplace across the country. On March 6, 2025, CCRI Lincoln had to lockdown campus. A man was arrested for carrying a gun and two knives on school grounds.

To become hired at the city police agency, he trained at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy. During his employment in the city agency the officers continually trained in the use of firearms at the police range to include active shooter training. To become hired as a Campus Police Officer, retired law enforcement officers who are already seasoned professionals, must undergo a thorough background investigation, psychological testing and complete physical examinations. These seasoned professionals are thereby highly trained, technically and psychologically, in the responsible use of firearms.

The Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus is vulnerable to safety threats due to the open design of the Great Hall. If an active shooter situation were to present itself, the officers on duty have no protection other than to call the City of Warwick Police Department. Many students and community members could be injured or killed while waiting for the support of an outside agency. For this reason, I believe it is important to have armed officers on the college campus to help protect the safety of students, staff and the officers on the job.

Please support Bill 5666 for the safety of all at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,  
Lisa A. Chille