



# RHODE ISLAND BROTHERHOOD OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

*"Representing Those Who Work the Toughest Beat in the State"*

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April 3, 2025

Honorable Members  
Rhode Island House Judiciary

Dear Representative:

I am writing to express the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers strong opposition for bill H-5928, this bill would mandate all department of corrections staff with direct supervision of inmates wear body cameras.

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections currently has an extensive network of existing cameras through all its facilities except Minimum Security and we believe it would be a waste of valuable tax dollars. The issue of body cameras is currently the subject of contract negotiations between the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers and the State of Rhode Island. This legislation would interfere with the required negotiations.

Implementing and maintaining a body-worn camera program will be expensive, including the cost of the cameras themselves, storage for the footage, and training for staff of 1000 Correctional Officers would prove to be a major budget liability at a time the state is experiencing difficult financial shortages.

There are significant concerns regarding a negative impact on Inmate-Officer Relationships, additional Correctional Officer job stress regarding privacy of staff and inmates, and there are concerns by staff of increased Correctional Officer job stress from heightened supervising of their job performance. There is also a debate on the effectiveness of the cameras, the view from body-worn cameras can sometimes be obscured during close-up interactions with an inmate, which could limit the effectiveness of the cameras.

It is with these facts in mind that the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Corrections respectfully requests that this committee reject this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Ferruccio".

Richard Ferruccio

President, RIBCO