



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Testimony in Support of House Bill 5950
Submitted by Mayor Christopher Beauchamp
City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island
March 26, 2025

Chairman Casey and members of the committee,

I serve as the Mayor of Woonsocket. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 5950, which would establish a reimbursement system for municipalities that invest in the training of public safety personnel when those individuals are subsequently hired by another municipality or public safety agency within three years of completing their training.

As a city leader, I understand firsthand the significant financial investment required to recruit, train, and equip our police officers and firefighters. In Woonsocket, as in many other Rhode Island municipalities, we take great pride in ensuring that our public safety personnel receive the highest quality training to protect and serve our residents. However, when these trained individuals leave for other departments shortly after completing their training, the burden falls unfairly on local taxpayers, who have funded that initial investment without any means of recouping those costs.

House Bill 5950 addresses this inequity by creating a fair reimbursement system that ensures municipalities are not left shouldering the cost of training personnel who ultimately serve elsewhere. This legislation will encourage fiscal responsibility, promote stability in our local public safety departments, and ensure that cities and towns across Rhode Island can continue investing in quality public safety training without undue financial loss.

By passing this bill, the General Assembly will be supporting municipalities like Woonsocket, ensuring that our investments in public safety training benefit our communities as intended. I urge the committee to advance House Bill 5950 and help create a fair and sustainable system for all Rhode Island cities and towns. I also want to thank Representative Slater for introducing this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Beauchamp
Mayor, City of Woonsocket