



January 18, 2024

RI House Small Business Committee  
RI State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, I write to express our strong support for H.7065, which would remove the sunset clause from the “Be Kind” bill.

Prior to the enactment of this legislation, Rhode Island hotels were not permitted to remove guests that were verbally abusing employees. The current law, which sunsets this year, gives hotels the flexibility they need to remove guests that verbally or physically threaten employees or guests.

Since its enactment, hotels across the state have expressed their relief that that law now offers them common-sense protection for ensuring the safety of their employees. While we cannot mandate people’s behavior, Rhode Island can send a strong signal to guests that visit our state that we expect our residents to be treated with respect.

Inspired by Rhode Island’s action, the State of Illinois recently passed a similar law. Several other states have expressed interest in following suit. It is imperative that Rhode Island continues to lead on this important issue and makes it clear that hotel employees should not be subjected to verbal abuse.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sbratko@ahla.com](mailto:sbratko@ahla.com).

Sincerely,

Sarah R. Bratko, Esq.  
American Hotel & Lodging Association