

26 February 2023

House Committee on Special Legislation
The State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Bill H 77326, introduced Jan 26, 2024

Good Afternoon Representatives Alzate, Diaz, Lombardi, Azzinaro, Casey, Gerald, Henries, Kazarian, Morgan, Perez, Potter, Roberts, Sanchez, Stewart, and Harada (with a special shout-out to my favorite Rep, Scott Slater).

I write to you in support of the proposed replacement of “Victory Day,” the name of the Rhode Island holiday observed on the second Monday of August, with the title “Peace and Remembrance Day.”

Since 1950, there have been 32 nuclear weapon accidents (unexpected events involving nuclear weapons that resulted in the accidental launching, firing, detonating, theft, or loss of the weapon). To date, six nuclear weapons have been lost and never recovered.

On August 6th, 1945 we dropped the world’s first atomic bomb on Hiroshima and, 3 days later, Nagasaki, melting the cities and people in a single moment. Survivors experienced their skin melting off; the descriptions of this still make my stomach turn.

Seventy years later we again live in frightening times. Our democracy seems to be fraying around the edges with the November election threat of an unstable man in the White House with access to the

nuclear button. Other countries with other unstable leaders now, too, have the same power. These threats of accidental and intentional use of nuclear weapons sometimes keeps me up at night; I'm sure I'm not alone.

What our country did to the people of Japan just a few years before I was born is nothing less than horrifying. This is nothing to celebrate. I believe that the majority of Rhode Islanders are peace-loving people that understand it is time to regard the terrible events of the past as lessons, not victories.

I ask you to please support H 7326 as introduced by Representative Stewart and supported by Reps Morales, Kislak, Donovan, Potter, Sanchez, Boylan, Handy, Dawson, and McGaw.

Thank you for your time,

Bobbie Hunger
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