

25 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

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation:

I am writing in enthusiastic 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."

As a newcomer to the state of Rhode Island, I was shocked and disheartened to learn about this state recognized and celebrated holiday. While I respect the intent to honor those who served in World War II, the implication directed at Japan exhibits racial bias and prejudice; the same prejudice and racial discrimination that led to the forced incarceration of hundreds of thousands of Japanese-American citizens during the war.

As a former public school educator and current teacher educator, I feel this holiday's current recognition goes against everything we try to instill in preparing multicultural, socially conscious engaged citizens. It is exclusionary not only for Japanese-Americans, but the greater Asian American community. I am encouraged to see this bill propose a change that will make an inclusive day for *all* Rhode Island residents to remember the past while working towards a more peaceful and vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Black

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