

28 February 2024

House Committee on Special Legislation

The State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Bill H 7326, introduced Jan 26, 2024

To the House Committee on Special Legislation:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Bill H 7326, introduced on January 26, 2024, proposing to replace “Victory Day,” the Rhode Island holiday observed on the second Monday of August, with “Peace and Remembrance Day.”

As a constituent in your district and an Asian American resident of Rhode Island since 2016, it is time for our state to address the historical injustice experienced by American citizens. Our country’s dark history of the state-sanctioned incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, followed by the prohibition of their return to the West Coast, left a legacy of intergenerational trauma. Renaming "Victory Day" will symbolize an acknowledgment of past wrongdoing and our state's commitment to rectifying historical injustices.

The holiday’s current name has felt exclusionary to me as a member of the Asian American community. I can only imagine how painful and traumatic it must be for Japanese American members of the community.

The name change to “Peace and Remembrance Day” would be a first step towards promoting respect and inclusion for all Rhode Island residents, especially those of Asian descent. I am confident that renaming the holiday will be a meaningful step toward promoting respect, inclusion, and healing for all Rhode Island residents. I look forward to seeing Bill H.7326 become law and its positive effects on our state.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chung

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