

Re: Testimony in support of H 5887 – Peace and Remembrance Day

Attn: Erin McKenna, Clerk for the House Committee on Special Legislation

Dear Honorable Chairperson and Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation

On behalf of East Bay Citizens for Peace, I am testifying in support of H 5887 – “Peace and Remembrance Day”. Rhode Island is the only state in the Union that has celebrated the second Monday of August as “Victory Day” – often referred to as VJ Day or Victory over Japan. We want to be clear that we do not discount the service of our veterans or the pain that they and families carry from that war. Instead we believe there is better way of honoring their service. The name “Victory Day” is problematic because of our government’s horrific nuclear attack on the civilians of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. We also think it is important to recognize that the US and Japan now enjoy peaceful relations. By changing the name to Peace and Remembrance Day, Rhode Island can still honor our veterans, while we remember the costs of war and honor the cause of peace.

Thank you for considering this meaningful piece of legislation.

Sincerely Yours,

 Nancy A. Hood for East Bay Citizens for Peace 

Bristol, RI

April 8, 2025