Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House Committee on State Government and Elections
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2024-H 7468– An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles – Registration Fees

Dear Chairman Shanley:

On behalf of the Rhode Island State Police, please accept this letter expressing strong support regarding legislation currently before the House Committee on State Government and Elections entitled, "An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles – Registration Fees." In sum, H-7314 would exempt the Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Inc. (DMAT) from vehicle and trailer registration fees.

DMAT is an important partner with Rhode Island State Police. By way of example, DMAT provides on-site medical assistance to recruits at Rhode Island State Police Training Academy, provides invaluable in-service training on various topics throughout the year, deploys with the RISP Tactical Team for all calls and serves as its medic regardless of day, time or weather and provides guidance on general disaster preparedness. DMAT is a leader in its field and is always willing to provide whatever services are needed by the Rhode Island State Police. Moreover, the services provided by DMAT are consistent with the services provided by other public health and emergency response organizations already exempt under R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-6-6(a). As such, the RISP strongly supports H–7468 entitled, "An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles – Registration Fees."

Respectfully,

Colonel Darnell S. Weaver
Superintendent
Rhode Island State Police

cc: House Committee on State Government and Elections
        Major Ronald Longolucco
        Adam Sholes, Esq. – DPS Chief Legal Counsel
        Governor's Office