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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

**TESTIMONY ON 21 – H 5228
AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE –
PROCEDURE GENERALLY – FEES
February 24, 2021**

The ACLU of Rhode Island is appreciative of the opportunity to provide supportive testimony for H 5228, which would provide a plan for the gradual increase of compensation for jurors.

Though the right to a trial by jury is a cornerstone of our Constitutional rights, the extremely low rates of compensation which jurors are provided for these services can have a significant impact on lower-income individuals wanting to participate in such an important civic process. The extremely modest increases in compensation proposed by this bill are not going to make them wealthy, but it at least acknowledges that exercising this civic duty warrants more than the meager payments that are currently made.

We are glad to see this legislation before the committee today and encourage its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by: Steven Brown, Executive Director