



Rhode Island Insurance Federation

April 28, 2026

Via Email to HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chair, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 7520 - Statement of Opposition from the Rhode Island Insurance Federation

Dear Chair Solomon,

The Rhode Island Insurance Federation submits this statement in opposition to House Bill 7520, which adds property damage coverage to underinsured motorist (“UIM-PD”) coverage. Only Washington state mandates drivers to have UIM-PD coverage, while three other states require it to be offered. This bill is an unnecessary cost increase for Rhode Island drivers, at a time when affordability is top of mind.

The Federation was recently formed to advocate for the property and casualty insurance industry in Rhode Island. Federation members write approximately 60% of the total property and casualty (“P&C”) insurance premiums in the state, and importantly over 85 percent of the private passenger auto insurance market in the state. Federation members include most of the major P&C insurance companies doing business in the state, and every national P&C insurance trade association is a member of the Federation.

It is important to note that not only would this bill make the Ocean State an outlier once again, but it also is imprudent public policy to mandate the purchase of first-party coverages. In most states, the mandated coverages include those that are based upon **your** financial responsibility to **others** you share the road with if you are found liable for damages. It also appears illogical that uninsured property damage coverage can be waived by a policyholder, but this legislation would make it a mandatory coverage for underinsured property damage. In doing so, it is also forcing insurers to sell an almost illusory coverage for those with the state minimum \$25,000 property damage liability coverage, as it is impossible they will be underinsured against another Rhode Island driver, so would only have this coverage afforded to them if their accident was with an at-fault party with less than \$25,000 in property damage liability coverage from another state with lower financial responsibility laws.

While neither uninsured nor underinsured are the largest price components of an auto insurance policy, it is still likely that this requirement would cost policyholders roughly 6 percent of the cost associated with their property damage liability selections.

Additionally, according to a 2022 NAIC analysis, roughly 77 percent of auto policyholders include collision coverage in their policy. When we combine that statistic with long-standing public policy that policyholders shall be mandated to purchase certain liability limits, but first-party coverages are about how the policyholder chooses to protect their own assets, it becomes clear that this legislation is highly unnecessary.

For the reasons set forth above, the Federation opposes House Bill 7520.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher S. Stark".

Christopher S. Stark

Executive Director

Rhode Island Insurance Federation

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