

**Carolyn Dyer, Highest Awards Committee  
Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England Volunteer  
House Bill 7416**

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

**My name is Carolyn Dyer**, I live at 46 Spice Bush Trl Narragansett and I have been a long-time volunteer with Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England, including serving on our **Highest Awards Committee**, where we oversee and evaluate Gold Award candidates.

I can share firsthand that the Girl Scout Gold Award is an extraordinarily rigorous and carefully supervised process. These young women do not simply complete a service project—they design, lead, and implement sustainable solutions to real community challenges. Each candidate must submit formal proposals, participate in multiple rounds of review, meet strict deadlines, and complete interviews, essays, and final presentations.

Throughout this process, candidates work with subject-matter experts and community partners, while our committee—made up of trained volunteers and council staff—provides ongoing evaluation to ensure projects meet the highest standards for leadership, measurable impact, and long-term sustainability.

By the time a Girl Scout earns her Gold Award, she has demonstrated advanced project management, accountability, and civic leadership skills that rival college-level work. I have personally witnessed the depth of research, perseverance, and professionalism these young women bring to their projects.

Recognizing Gold Award Girl Scouts through opportunities such as automatic college admission is not simply honoring volunteerism—it is acknowledging a proven record of excellence, leadership, and meaningful community impact.

Thank you for your time and your support of Rhode Island's young leaders.