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Chairman Joseph McNamara
House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 7616

Dear Chairman McNamara,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Association of Justice (“RIAJ”), the organization is opposed to Section D of H 7616. This bill would require every elementary and secondary school to provide, run, and maintain a clearly visible and easily accessible trauma kit. While the RIAJ is not opposing the general sentiments of the bill, it does strongly oppose Section D of the bill.

Section D of the bill provides an immunity clause to persons providing approved training in traumatic bleeding injuries, property lessees and owners where the emergency assistance occurs, and the owners of the life-saving equipment. The immunity clause reduces the effectiveness of the bill, essentially, taking the sting out of it. Providing immunity reduces the incentive for individuals to follow procedures since they will not face a legal or financial consequence.

This is a good bill intended to keep students safe, however, the Rhode Island Association of Justice must oppose this bill based on the language found in Section D. Therefore, the Rhode Island Association of Justice urges this committee to not pass H 7616.

Very truly yours,
Christina Fernandes