



Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

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March 17, 2026

The Honorable Joseph McNamara
Chair, House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman McNamara,

On behalf of the member institutions of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 7897.

While we appreciate the intent behind this legislation, we have several concerns regarding the administrative burden and unnecessary regulatory overview this legislation would enact.

This legislation would strain already busy campus security & safety offices, particularly for institutions with large campuses. Because each campus is unique, has a different security posture and safety considerations, a better approach would be to encourage collaboration between the institution and the host community to identify potential gaps and safety needs and distinctive challenges. A robust dialogue on these issues could best consider the many differences found across campuses and host communities.

This legislation would also require institutions to provide the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) with a copy of their school safety plans. Logistically, sharing institutional safety plans with institution's local police department is understandable and a practice many institutions currently engage in. However, it is unnecessary for RIDE to maintain copies of safety plans as RIDE does not have regulatory authority over the eight AICU Rhode Island member institutions. Providing copies of campus safety plans to RIDE creates more opportunities for confidential information and campus security practices to be exposed or leaked, potentially endangering institutional safety.

This legislation increases administrative burden, requires unnecessary reporting measures and is limited in regard to input & impact from stakeholders. We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the state on a more effective and responsible safety plan sharing measure.

With these points in mind, AICU *Rhode Island* **opposes House Bill 7897.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan", written over a blue circular scribble.

Daniel P. Egan
President