



# International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 312

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House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

April 10th, 2025

**Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,**

I respectfully submit this letter for your consideration in support of House Bill No. 5767, which seeks to amend the Police Officer Relief Act to allow disabled police officers to pursue gainful employment without forfeiting tuition assistance benefits.

As a dedicated member of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers and the current Business Agent for the West Warwick Police Department IBPO Local 312, I am deeply familiar with the risks and sacrifices inherent in our profession. Police officers accept the dangers of this calling with the understanding that we are serving a greater good. However, when an officer sustains a debilitating injury that renders them unable to continue in their sworn duties, the personal and financial repercussions can be profound and far-reaching.

Under current law, those officers who have been injured in the line of duty are precluded from seeking employment in any other capacity without jeopardizing the educational assistance intended to benefit their dependents. This policy not only limits their ability to rebuild their lives with dignity, but also places undue hardship on the families who have already borne the burden of their loved one's service.

House Bill No. 5767 offers a measured and just solution. It recognizes that a police officer's commitment does not end when they are injured and honors their continued efforts to provide for their families. Furthermore, this amendment would align the benefits afforded to disabled police officers with those currently extended to our colleagues in the fire service—ensuring equity across professions that share similar risks and responsibilities.

I urge you to support this legislation, which represents not only a practical adjustment, but a meaningful affirmation of our shared commitment to those who have given selflessly in service to their communities.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Detective Justin Lake  
Business Agent - IBPO Local 312  
West Warwick Police Department