



RHODE ISLAND BROTHERHOOD OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

"Representing Those Who Work the Toughest Beat in the State"

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Honorable Members

House Finance Committee

Dear Representative,

I am writing to express the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers **support** for H-5283, which would provide Department of Corrections personnel with similar protections granted under Rhode Island General Law 45-19-1.

Correctional Officers in the State of Rhode Island are sworn peace officers, which grants officers powers of arrest and the right to carry a concealed firearm. We are the police behind the behind the walls of the Department of Corrections. The risks of the duties of a Correctional Officer are widely recognized. It is not uncommon for Correctional Officers to be assaulted or injured as a result of inmate fights. During prior state of emergencies Correctional Officers were required to report to work as they are designated essential personnel, while virtually every state worker is sent home.

While police officers, deputy sheriffs, members of the fugitive task force, capitol police officers, environmental police officers and investigators and airport police are provided protections of 45-19-1. Rhode Island Correctional Officers are covered by the general workers compensation statute.

Fundamental fairness alone would dictate consideration of this legislation, correctional officers are being injured and suffering hardships. When a correctional Officer is injured they are covered under Rhode Island Workers Compensation and the provisions of our collective bargaining agreement.

When you look at the important role corrections personnel perform regarding public safety, this legislation is significant. By passing this legislation you will provide that a Correctional Officer and their families are not negatively impacted when an officer is injured in the performance of their duties.

It is with these facts in mind that the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers respectfully requests that the committee pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Ferruccio, President