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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 26-H 7689, AN ACT RELATING TO THE RHODE ISLAND WORKS PROGRAM May 14, 2026

Among a number of other commendable changes being proposed to the Rhode Island Works Program, this bill would eliminate the five-year waiting period for Legal Permanent Residents to obtain benefits under this important state program. The ACLU of Rhode Island strongly supports that change.

In making this positive amendment to the law, Rhode Island would eliminate an unfair and unnecessary waiting period and join more than a dozen other states in recognizing the value of supporting the needs of LPR members of the community.

Rhode Island has a proud history of welcoming immigrants to our state, and making this simple and humane change to the RI Works Program would further that worthwhile effort. We therefore urge the committee's support of this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.