



RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

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February 25, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill No. H7570 AN ACT RELATING CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association (RIPCA) to voice our strong support for the House bill referenced above which allows law enforcement to utilize mufflers, silencers, or other devices for deadening or muffling the sound of a firearm while acting within the scope of their official duties under the supervision of the police chief or colonel of the state police.

Allowing law enforcement officers to utilize suppressors can enhance their tactical capabilities by minimizing the auditory signature of their firearms. In high-stress situations, such as active shooter scenarios or tactical operations, reducing the sound of gunfire can help officers maintain a tactical advantage, communicate more effectively, and prevent potential hearing loss that could impair their performance in the field.

Moreover, the use of suppressors by law enforcement can contribute to a reduction in noise pollution in urban and residential areas. By dampening the sound of gunfire, suppressors help mitigate the disruptive impact of firearms training on surrounding communities, particularly in densely populated areas where firearm noise can be disruptive to nearby residents.

It is important to note that H7570 would only grant this authority to trained law enforcement personnel who are responsible for protecting public safety and upholding the law. The bill would establish strict regulations and oversight mechanisms to ensure that suppressors are used responsibly and in accordance with established law enforcement protocols.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of the RIPCA and as always, I am available for any follow-up questions you or the committee may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colonel Bradford E. Connor,
President, Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association
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