

March 5, 2025

EMAIL ONLY

Hon. Robert E. Craven
Chairperson, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
Email: rep-craven@rilegislature.gov; bob@robertecraven.com

RE: SUPPORT FOR 2025-H 5223 -- THE RHODE ISLAND CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT

Dear Chairperson Craven,

This letter is sent by the undersigned in my capacity as Governmental Affairs Counsel for the New England Mechanical Contractors Association (“New England MCA”).¹

New England MCA **supports** passage of this bill, *which would provide a remedy for any harm caused due to a deprivation or violation of rights secured by the Constitution and laws of the State of Rhode Island*. Quite simply, this bill ensures that individuals who sustain harm due to a violation of their state created rights and protections will be entitled to a remedy. New England MCA has on numerous occasions endorsed legislation specific to protecting the rights of individuals in the workplace. Endorsing legislation that extends the protections of individuals to include remedies for violations by governmental actors that may occur both inside and outside the work-place is consistent with our longstanding position. Indeed, it might be hypocritical to do otherwise. By providing a remedy for such violations, this bill ensures that it is the government, not an innocent injured party, that will bear the cost of any harm caused by a violation of state created rights and protections.

For all the foregoing reasons, New England MCA strongly **supports** passage of this legislation.

Very truly yours,



Richard A. Sinapi, ras@sinapilaw.com

RAS/ras

cc: Client (email only)

Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House (via email only) (rep-shekarchi@rilegislature.gov)
Members of House Judiciary Committee (via email only) (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

¹ New England MCA represents the major commercial and industrial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and process piping contractors in Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island. It has over 80 contractor members throughout New England. New England MCA’s Rhode Island members include Aero Mechanical, Inc., Arden Engineering Constructors, LLC, Delta Mechanical, Hart Engineering Corporation, and Nexgen Mechanical. Every New England MCA member is signatory to one or more collective bargaining agreements with the local construction industry trades. Our members have worked as contractors and subcontractors on numerous public and private works projects in Rhode Island, including major construction at URI, Rhode Island Resource Recovery, Providence College, and Amgen. During periods of major commercial construction, New England MCA member contractors may employ as many as 700 Local 51 plumbers and pipefitters in Rhode Island. *The views expressed in this letter do not necessarily represent the position of each individual member.*