

February 23, 2025

RE: Support for H5348 / H5357 / H5358

To the House Judiciary Committee,

I would like to express my strong support of H5348, H5357, and H5358, three bills that make amendments to Rhode Island's Commercial Sexual Activity statutes in order to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of sex workers and survivors of human trafficking. All three of these bills ensure that people in the sex trade (whether by choice, circumstance, or force, fraud, or coercion) are able to access critical services without being further marginalized and burdened by unnecessary criminalization. For me, immunity matters because I am a sex worker (I started dancing in 2018) and have plenty of friends in the industry who I love and care about, who deserve to be treated with respect, dignity, and care just like anyone else with a civilian occupation. We are people too, people who deserve to feel safe and comfortable in the place they reside and free from potential further harm. If Rhode Island becomes a place where sex workers can feel safe to report traffickers without fearing for their own criminalization, we can all work together to prevent even more people from being subject to such trafficking. This would quite literally save lives, as well as rebuild communities, and what's more important than that?

These bills all ensure that at-risk individuals will have access to needed services without unnecessarily burdening those convicted of commercial activity. I strongly urge you to pass H5348, H5357, and H5358 to promote the health, wellbeing, and social support of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Rose