

Dear Representative,

As head of an atheist organization, I know firsthand what it's like to represent a disempowered and disenfranchised population facing stigma. That is why Rhode Island Atheists proudly supports COYOTE RI and their efforts to stop this bill.

We stand today in resolute opposition to Bill H5358. This bill, in its current form, represents a profound failure to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. We oppose it because it undermines public safety and ignores the very real dangers faced by sex workers and trafficking victims. Bill H5358 creates a system where reporting is discouraged, where witnesses are silenced. We want to protect those who report the most heinous acts, the acts that shatter lives and destroy communities. This is not the kind of state we wish to live in.

We advise you to contact COYOTE RI and discuss better methods of reforming laws around sex workers in Rhode Island.

Please vote AGAINST this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Joseph Burgio
Director
Rhode Island Atheists

