



Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

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February 25, 2025

The Honorable Representative Craven
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI, 02903
Dear Chairman Craven,

On behalf of the member institutions of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, I am writing to express our support for **House Bill 5440**.

This legislation would allow non-sworn public safety officers and security guards at private colleges and universities to detain individuals within the campus jurisdiction for no more than 30-minutes given there is reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed a crime.

This grants campus security officers the ability to maintain immediate public safety on their campus while still working with the local police jurisdiction within a reasonable timeframe. This is especially pertinent if the criminal offender poses a potential threat to themselves or others, allowing campus security to react appropriately to ensure the safety of students and staff while still following proper detainment procedure and legal due process.

Currently, non-sworn public safety officers attend a modified training academy overseen by the RI Department of Public Safety. This legislation will change training regulations to include proper use of restraint devices and use of force policies conducted by a certified state or national trainer.

The present legal standards regarding campus security detainment are included under RI General Laws 12-7-16, which vaguely permits campus security to detain individuals suspected of a crime without clear rules or guidance. This legislation would clarify the given authority of campus security to detain individuals for the specified period.

With these points in mind, AICU *Rhode Island* supports the passage of **House Bill 5440**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DP'.

Daniel P. Egan
President