

March 4th, 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Robert E Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5258 (Casimiro) - RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES--
COMMON LAW MARRIAGE – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Craven, First Vice Chair McEntee, Second Vice Chair Knight, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

We write to you today express our support for the proposal to remove common law marriage from the definition of marriage codification. Common law marriage is an antiquated and outdated form of recognizing marriage. If two people intend to marry, they can do so at their town or city hall. Getting married is an intentional act and requires consent of both parties. Common law marriage creates a blurry situation that has to be resolved by the courts. In the event that one person claims common law marriage, the other person must defend themselves. This puts an undue burden on the courts and is a waste of state resources since both parties had the option of getting married at city hall. We urge you to remove common law marriage as a recognized form of marriage in the State of Rhode Island.

Warm Regards,

Harold & Merri

Harold & Merri Cahoon
69 Morris St
Warwick, RI 02889