

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:

I'm writing to express my support to remove common law marriage from the definition of marriage codification. There are so many opportunities for two individuals to get married in the State of Rhode Island. Common law marriage is vague and difficult to prove and creates headaches for the courts who have to adjudicate should common law marriage be claimed. Additionally, if one party doesn't intend to get married and the other does, claiming common law marriage is a way to take advantage of the other person. Two people who intend to marry will do so through appropriate means and will not go the common law route. It is the responsibility of both individuals to complete the marriage process and shouldn't be left up to the state to determine whether a common law marriage exists.

Warm Regards,

Maria

Maria Sekley
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