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March 3, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill No. H5644 Relating to Motor Vehicle – Non-transparent Windshield and Windows.

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association (RIPCA) to voice our strong support for the House bill referenced above regarding the increase of fines for 2nd and 3rd offenses of sunscreen material in violation of 31-23.3-2 R.I.G.L.

The focus of our objection to allowing sunscreen and/or non-transparent material on the front windshield and side windows are for safety reasons. Dark tints, especially at night or in low-light conditions can significantly reduce the driver's ability to see pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles. Secondly, there is a strong public safety concern, as dark tints allow occupants to move without detection, causing risks for both officers and occupants. Dark tint also makes it easier for criminals to evade detection, conceal contraband or hide weapons.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of the RIPCA and as always, I am available for any follow-up questions you or the committee may have, and we are willing to continue discussions with the bill's sponsors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Wordell", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Sidney Wordell
Executive Director
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association