



RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ^{AFT}_{AFL-CIO}

To: House Judiciary Committee
From: James Parisi, Field Representative
Date: March 26, 2025
Re: **Arming Campus Police**

Testimony in **Opposition** of H 5666 (Representative O'Brien, et. al.)

The Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals opposes this bill to arm campus police at Rhode Island public higher education institutions. While we appreciate the bill sponsor's interest in keeping the campuses safe, we do not support arming the campus police staff as an appropriate strategy to ensure safety.

The RIFTHP represents three local unions of employees at Rhode Island College, the full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, and professional staff. All three unions oppose efforts to arm the police on the RIC campus. These unions have been consistently opposed to this bill since it was originally proposed years ago.

Rhode Island College is in the city of Providence and the town of North Providence. Both of these municipalities have professional, trained, public safety forces which currently police the surrounding areas and have historically been a resource for Rhode Island College.

Our members at Rhode Island College join others in the RIC community in their desire to keep firearms off campus.

We respectfully urge you not to pass H 5666.

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