



OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
PHILIP G. GOULD  
333-1103  
Email: ppgould@lincolnrh.org

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairmen Robert Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

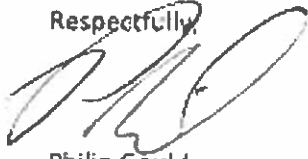
Prior to becoming the Town Administrator here in Lincoln I was a Lincoln Police Officer for 29 years, retiring at the rank of Captain. During my tenure with the PD I was a departmental firearms instructor as well as a firearms instructor at the RI Municipal Police Academy. For the last six years with the academy I was the lead instructor responsible for overseeing instruction and curriculum as well as being the person to review all the firearm training submittals from all RI Police Departments before getting POST Approval. On top of that I was also an active shooter trainer for my department and the active shooter response trainer for the Lincoln School District. I helped establish lockdown and response procedures for the district and also served on the Use of Force Policy Committee for the State.

I share my experience and background with you as I think it relevant as I also share your opinion that our Campus Police should be armed. In an active threat situation, minutes count. Not only does armed police within the campus increase the response time to deal with an active threat it also makes them an asset, not a liability, to outside officers responding for mutual aid. A barricaded gunman on campus would require a multi-jurisdictional response. Several officers would be needed to establish a perimeter, escort rescue personnel into a warm zone, or potentially engage the threat. By failing to arm these individuals we are doing them and the students and faculty a disservice. I would also point out that most, if not all, are former police officers who have received previous training.

Last month the Lincoln Police Department along with the Rhode Island State Police responded to the CCRI Flanagan Campus for a reported gunmen entering the campus. It was later learned that the suspect had a knife and airsoft gun and did not assault anyone in the building. The suspect was taken into custody after he left the building. The Community College of Rhode Island is an open campus. This most recent incident clearly illustrates that we cannot guarantee that a bad actor will not enter the premises.

As someone who has a family member that works at the college, and a son that attends classes, I can't advocate strongly enough that we provide the necessary tools to the Campus Police to properly "Protect and Serve".

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Gould", written over the word "Respectfully,".

Philip Gould  
Lincoln Town Administrator