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Robert Craven, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 6212

Dear Chairman Craven,

I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 6212, which would punish any person who tampers with or fraudulently acquires or retains possession of a gift card or gift card redemption information, subject to the penalties for larceny.

Under Rhode Island General Laws, larceny is defined as stolen money, goods, or chattels. While gift cards are not actual currency, they hold the same value monetarily as any dollar would. Gift card scams are a growing concern, especially regarding the elderly population who are extremely vulnerable to such scams. Such scams include payment of a debt via gift card, false prize/sweepstakes scams, IRS and social security scams. In addition to scams, gift cards are being tampered with in the form of stolen redemption information. Gift card redemption information is stolen before the card can be sold, allowing criminals to drain the balance from the card once funds have been loaded.

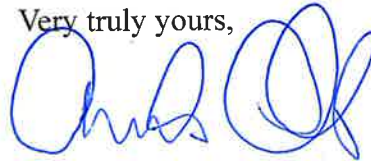
Gift cards are often given as presents, thus, there can be two victims per instance of gift card fraud - the recipient of the gift card and the gift card purchaser. This bill is intended to

protect consumers from scammers and fraudsters and provide a remedy to victims of gift card fraud in the form of restitution.

By providing a legal framework for law enforcement, this bill will not only deter individuals from engaging in fraudulent behavior, but also allow for gift card fraud to be prosecuted and punished appropriately under Rhode Island Law.

Thus, I urge this committee to pass House Bill 6212.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony DeSisto', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony DeSisto