

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, RI House Judiciary Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H. 6229

Dear Chair Craven and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of H. 6229, which would reestablish the Rhode Island state crime laboratory within the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General.

While strong university-based forensic science programs are instrumental in workforce development and advancing forensic research and innovation, the state of Rhode Island has been an outlier nationally by placing administrative responsibility for a state crime lab with a university. This legislation transitions administration of the lab to a state agency, which is more in keeping with national norms. Importantly, this legislation will enable the University to rededicate resources to more mission critical initiatives in education and research, central to our role as a land- and sea-grant institution.

As the state's flagship public research university, URI supports Rhode Island through its tripartite mission of education, research, and service. H. 6229 would enable URI to focus on core mission initiatives, while continuing to produce research and educate the next generation of forensic science professionals who will contribute to the future work of the Rhode Island state crime lab. URI will continue to work collaboratively with the Attorney General and ensure a seamless transition of the state crime lab should H. 6229 pass into law.

Kind regards,



Marc Parlange, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President