

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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February 10, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER REGARDING:

House Bill No. 7353

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES – COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONSHIP ACT OF 2015

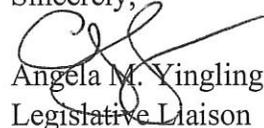
Chairwoman Hagan McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender supports House Bill 7353, which would update and enhance the Comprehensive Community-Police Relationship Act of 2015 (CCPRA). The CCPRA was an excellent piece of legislation that resulted from the CCPRA's working group's diligent efforts. The diverse makeup of the group, which included representatives from law enforcement, the defense bar, community groups, religious organizations, and government bodies, ensured that all stakeholders were heard and many viewpoints were taken into consideration. As a result of this collaborative effort, the CCPRA helped improve community and police relations, brought more awareness and understanding to the racial disparities ingrained in our criminal justice system, and increased public safety.

But over a decade has gone by since the passing of the original CCPRA and the work is not over. In order to continue the original working group's ambitious but productive efforts, the CCPRA must be updated. The specific requirements laid out in the HB 7353 include: 1) the creation of a twelve-member CCPRA advisory committee to advise the office of highway safety about the committee's duties concerning the stop and search data that has been collected, 2) the completion of an annual study by an outside agency (selected by the Department of Transportation with input from the CCPRA advisory committee), and 3) monthly reviews and annual reports for law enforcement agencies.

The original CCPRA working group proved that great things can be achieved when the stakeholders come together to study, assess, and tackle a problem, but efforts must be ongoing. Accordingly, the Office of the Public Defender supports the passing of HB7353.

Sincerely,



Angela M. Yingling
Legislative Liaison

Office of the Public Defender

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