

Name: Toby Ayers
Organization: None (private citizen, RI)
Bill Number: **House Bill No. [7353](#)**
Viewpoint: FOR
Hearing Date: 2/11/2026

H-7353 Testimony in Support

February 11, 2026

Dear Chair Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee and Judiciary Committee members,

I write to strongly support House Bill No. 7353, sponsored by Representatives Ajello, Morales, Cruz, Stewart, Felix, Batista, Biah, Knight, Alzate, and Diaz, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-- POLICE RELATIONSHIP ACT OF 2015, amending the CCPRA to continue an annual traffic stops/searches study and create a CCPRA advisory committee.

I believe goals of this bill are desired by both community and law enforcement: bias-free policing, equitable and impartial practices, and safety for communities.

I especially support creation of a CCPRA Advisory Committee. I'm retired now but previously as a nonprofit director (RICJ), I was an Advisory group member for the initial traffic stops studies run through the RI Office of Highway Safety. I saw how crucial this Advisory group was in building trust and improving relations at a time of great tension between police and community. The Advisory group was collaborative and while discussions were at times difficult, they were educational for both sides, and highly productive. H-7353 can similarly promote community voice, an equitable seat at the table, and meaningful police-community collaboration.

An invitation was extended to the RI Police Chief's Association to discuss this bill in advance of the session, but a meeting could not be arranged. I hope reintroduction of this bill will lead to RIPCA's willingness to discuss the CCPRA with community advocates, and hope the Judiciary Committee can help that discussion happen.

In these times, promoting bias free policing is more important than ever. I respectfully ask the House Judiciary Committee to support and pass H-7353. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Toby Ayers, PhD