



**State of Rhode Island**  
**Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

May 21, 2026

The Hon. Matthew LaMountain  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Hon. Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee

Re: Letter of Support for S2605 and H7202: An Act Relating To Courts And Civil Procedure -- Procedure Generally -- Causes Of Action -- The Rhode Island Federal Constitution Defense Act

To Chairs LaMountain and McEntee:

I write to you in support of S2605 and H7202: An Act Relating To Courts And Civil Procedure -- Procedure Generally -- Causes Of Action -- The Rhode Island Federal Constitution Defense Act. This bill creates the Rhode Island Federal Constitution defense act.

In short, the Federal Constitution Defense Act states that any person or persons depriving others of their Constitutionally secured rights in our state “shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.” Even in divisive times, supporting the inalienable rights of all those protected by the Constitution of the United States is not political. Our Constitution represents the ultimate principles of American democracy. So important are these principles that they feature heavily in all civics exams for new immigrants, the same exams which I had to take in order to become an American citizen.

Our Constitution protects the basic rights of all Americans, and this bill empowers individuals deprived of their rights the opportunity to seek satisfaction through our legal system. For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Members of the RIBLIA Caucus