

House Committee on Judiciary
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

March 4, 2026
Testimony in support of House Bill 7211

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am thrilled that this bill is being considered and am very hopeful that it will become law.

I've lived in Providence for about ten years now. I generally feel quite safe. But with the current practices of ICE, wearing masks and exhibiting no actual ID, I worry for my well-being. What do I do if masked men stop me on the street or demand access into my home? I have no way of verifying that they are who they say they are and, as importantly, no way of reporting the unidentifiable individuals after the fact. This doesn't sound like the U.S.A.

I believe that Rhode Island state and municipal law officers are likely to be in support of this bill. When I am walking in the city, I have taken up the practice of thanking Providence and State Police for not wearing masks. Most of them are surprised that I'd think that it would occur to them to wear masks. This is, I believe, as it should be. It's one of the reasons I love living here.

This bill calls for such a simple requirement. The exemptions are appropriate and sufficient. I hope that it will pass easily.

Please support House Bill 7211.

Thank you,

Helen G. Grundman
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