



Testimony: H7211
SUPPORT for The Rhode Island Community Protection Act
March 4, 2026

Dear Chair McEntee and Committee Members,

My name is Jocelyn Foye, and I am the Executive Director of The Womxn Project, a Providence-based nonprofit that frequently focuses on matters related to reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and government transparency.

I am testifying in strong support of H7211. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit law enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings when interacting with the general public and would require visible ID. Additionally, this bill will help to ensure that law enforcement takes accountability for violations of conduct.

Over the past year, we have seen an increase in law enforcement officers covering their faces while interacting with members of the public. This has become a public safety concern for many, as facial coverings and lack of proper identification have not only allowed law enforcement to act in questionable ways that many would deem unsafe, but have also allowed regular people to impersonate law enforcement with malicious intent. In both of these cases, people's safety has been compromised, leaving many people in fear.

In order to protect Rhode Islanders, it is crucial that law enforcement is identifiable. Not only that, but when law enforcement officers violate the law, they must be held accountable just like everybody else. Barring the use of facial coverings and requiring visible ID would likely reduce the rates at which law enforcement acts unlawfully and would also help to identify those officers who are acting unlawfully so that they can be held accountable.

I urge you to support H7211 and prioritize the safety of Rhode Islanders. We must hold our law enforcement to the same standards we hold everyone else and remind them that their position of authority does not give them the right to engage in unlawful conduct.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Foye
Executive Director, The Womxn Project