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March 3, 2026

RI House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee

Re: **Opposition to House Bill 2026 – H7211**

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I understand this legislation follows nationwide trends regarding facial coverings for law enforcement, however I have numerous concerns regarding the language and contents of this bill.

A uniformed police officer displaying a name tag or badge number is not “disguised,” yet this bill treats them as such. By failing to clearly define “disguise,” you are creating a legal minefield for every patrol officer in Rhode Island.

Is this committee truly prepared to imprison a police officer for a year for wearing a KN95 mask instead of an N95 during a health crisis? Will you force non-SWAT officers to face violent unrest with no facial protection? Are municipalities prepared to defend the onslaught of civil claims against officers for protecting themselves from inclement weather that may not rise to the level of a “weather emergency?”

This legislation isn't about transparency – it's a targeted attack that exposes officers to massive civil liability and physical harm.

Respectfully,



John Donley
State President