



March 12, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Written Testimony to Support 2026 – H7547**

Chair McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Michelle Loranger, and I submit this written testimony as the Executive Director of Day One.

Day one is pleased to offer strong support for H7547 – Relating to Criminal Procedure – Criminal Injuries Compensation.

Through our 24/7/365 Helpline and advocacy response, Day One works with stalking victims who are forced to change their routines, leave their homes, or take extraordinary measures to protect themselves and their families. Relocation costs, security upgrades, or emergency housing can be financially overwhelming. H7547 acknowledges these realities and removes a barrier that has historically prevented victims from accessing essential safety resources.

H7547 makes an important and long-overdue improvement by explicitly recognizing stalking within Rhode Island's Criminal Injuries Compensation Program. Under this bill, individuals who are victims of stalking may receive emergency compensation for relocation or essential safety modifications in their home—a critical lifeline for those whose safety is at risk.

This is particularly significant because many stalking victims do not fit into traditional categories of violent crime. Their experiences may involve repeated following, surveillance, credible threats, harassment, or coercive control—behaviors that create real danger but do not always result in immediate physical injury. Without explicit recognition of stalking as a compensable offense for relocation or safety modifications, victims are often left with no financial support at the exact moment when they need it most.

By modernizing the statute to reflect the very real dangers associated with stalking, Rhode Island affirms that victims deserve safety, stability, and meaningful support before violence escalates—not only after a physical injury occurs. H7547 is a practical, survivor-centered bill that improves safety for individuals, families, and communities.

Day One respectfully urges the Committee to support and advance H7547.

Thank you for your time, your commitment to survivors, and your leadership on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Loranger".

Michelle Loranger, MPA  
Executive Director