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### *Member Agencies*

Blackstone Valley  
Advocacy Center  
Domestic Violence  
Resource Center of  
South County  
Elizabeth Buffum  
Chace Center  
Women's Resource Center

### *Task Force*

Sisters Overcoming  
Abusive Relationships

### *Affiliate Members*

Center for Southeast Asians  
Crossroads Rhode Island  
Family Service of Rhode Island  
McAuley Ministries –  
McAuley Village  
Progreso Latino  
YWCA Rhode Island

To: Representative Carol Hagan McEtee, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Lucy Rios, Executive Director  
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: March 24, 2026

**Re: Support for House Bill 8077**

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On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) appreciates this opportunity to express our **support for House Bill 8077**. This bill would help to create standardized regulations for municipal and state police authorities for acquiring and utilizing automated license plate readers in Rhode Island, including providing clear standards for what data can be collected and how the data can be used. Laws like this are essential in ensuring the safety of victims who experience domestic violence in mitigating the risks of technology like this being used to perpetuate domestic violence.

At the RICADV we recognize the pivotal and lifesaving role that law enforcement has in the prevention of domestic violence and helping to keep victims of domestic violence safe. At the same time, it is important to recognize that not every survivor has this experience with law enforcement. It is estimated that on average between 20-40% of victims of domestic violence experience officer involved domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> This means that law enforcement families/significant others of law enforcement officers experience domestic violence at rates that are 2-4 times greater than the general population. This statistic is incredibly important to recognize when 78% of female victims and 76% of male victims report being stalked/surveilled, and victims are most often stalked by people they already know.<sup>2</sup> Page 9 of RICADV's RI Domestic Violence Homicide report highlights research indicating that the period of time immediately after a survivor takes steps to end the abusive relationship, report abuse, or leave the abusive partner is uniquely dangerous: "The time after a victim ends an abusive relationship can be one of the most dangerous periods. Perpetrators of domestic violence will often escalate their tactics of abuse as they start to lose control over the victim."

Reproductive control is another form of violence that survivors experience, in which partners who use violence sabotage or interfere with the survivor's reproductive health and decision-making. This type of violence can be exacerbated using technology such as auto license plate readers, where an abuser can utilize such equipment to track and prevent a survivor from seeking access to quality reproductive healthcare. These potential risks for harm from the use of technology such as automatic license plate readers are highlighted in various instances across the country. In Kansas, a former police chief used FLOCK cameras, an automatic license plate reader, to track an ex-girlfriend over 200 times in a four-month period, and they even stalked their ex-girlfriend's new partner.<sup>3</sup> In Texas, deputies also used FLOCK cameras to track a woman, who was allegedly reported by a former romantic partner, seeking access to reproductive healthcare, despite claims from the department stating the investigation was for a missing person and it was about her safety.<sup>4</sup>

When victims of domestic violence become distrustful of a system designed to help and protect them, it is a threat to public safety. When a victim is fearful that tools of a system may be weaponized against them and are afraid to come forward to report abuse, we risk the increase of threats to public safety and escalation of violence at home. We encourage

this Committee to pass this important legislation to help limit and guard against the very real potential threat of harm that victims of domestic violence may experience as a result of the misuse of automatic license plate readers in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> Officer Involved Domestic Violence: A Survivor Story. *National Domestic Violence Hotline*. (2026). Retrieved from <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/officer-involved-domestic-violence-a-survivor-story/>

<sup>2</sup> Stalking. *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. (2025). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/about-stalking.html>

<sup>3</sup> Police Surveillance is Ripe for Abuse. *ACLU Wisconsin*. (2025). Retrieved from <https://www.aclu-wi.org/news/what-the-flock-police-surveillance-is-ripe-for-abuse/>

<sup>4</sup> Flock Safety and Texas Sheriff Claimed License Plate Search Was for a Missing Person. It Was an Abortion Investigation. *Electronic Frontier Foundation*. (2025). Retrieved from <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/10/flock-safety-and-texas-sheriff-claimed-license-plate-search-was-missing-person-it>