

Testimony in SUPPORT of 26-H 8077

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of 26-H 8077, which would create reasonable safeguards around the installation and use of automated license plate reader cameras in Rhode Island.

I am deeply concerned that this technology is being used across our state *without* regulation and can be used against individuals in violation of their rights. I urge you to take action to protect our privacy in our state. The data sharing capabilities of these cameras are troubling, and I believe we need legal constraints in place. Necessary public safety objectives can be met without sacrificing basic privacy protections.

My concerns are about the sharing of data across state lines and the lack of regulations about access and retention of data about individuals. The automated license plate reader cameras represent surveillance creep towards a surveillance state with loss of privacy rights of an individual.

Surveillance has been tied to racism in this country and used to control populations in other countries. Surveillance has been used disproportionately on black and brown communities during protests, and it facilitates the unfair racial profiling that is occurring. It could easily be used against women and infringe on reproductive rights.

26-H 8077 would basically help to protect privacy rights by bringing this surveillance to the attention of municipalities and limiting how the data is used:

- Create a process for requiring municipal APPROVAL and installation of the cameras
- Create a public log of why the data sharing network is being searched
- PREVENT the sharing of data for federal immigration enforcement or reproductive healthcare purposes.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter of individual privacy rights and voting in support of 26-H 8077.

Sincerely,

Naomi Kramer

Resident of Providence, RI