

Angel's Testimony in Support of House Bill 8119

March 24, 2026

To The House Judiciary Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Angel Lopez, and I am a resident of Providence. I write to you in support of House Bill 8119. This piece of legislation is necessary and long overdue. The thought of surveillance technology being used to capture and monitor Rhode Islanders is as frightening as it is disheartening.

House Bill 8119 is a step in the right direction. It does little to protect my neighbors and I from the controllers and data brokers that operate behind RI G.L. §39-32, or regulate the exposure of emissions from surveillance devices, but it does begin to protect municipal budgets by preventing law enforcement from purchasing personal data.

This bill will help anyone who finds out their information was shared unwillingly or unwarranted for something of value. A reality in our state is that the amount of people encouraged to seek justice for environmental harms changes drastically from neighborhood to neighborhood. At the very least, this bill when enacted will hold government and law enforcement accountable for sharing or accepting personal data in exchange for something of value. Accountability will enable residents to regain the lost but not forgotten data protections that we respect.

I want to thank the sponsors for introducing this bill and anyone else who has worked on this bill. As a resident who is knowledgeable about this topic, I highly recommend swift passage of House Bill 8119 for a vote on the house floor.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Angel Lopez
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