



April 9, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

State House

Providence, RI 02908

Re: Testimony Supporting H 8060 relating to Impersonation and Identity Fraud

Dear Chair McEntee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write in **support of H 8060** which modernizes Rhode Island’s criminal statutes to address entity impersonation and identity fraud and provides law enforcement and prosecutors with needed tools to respond to evolving fraud schemes harming Rhode Islanders—particularly consumers and small businesses.

H 8060 appropriately updates state law to reflect how fraud is perpetrated today. By explicitly criminalizing the knowing impersonation of an entity and the use of digital forgery, the bill closes a gap that bad actors are increasingly exploiting. While identity theft is currently a crime under Rhode Island law, impersonating a business or government entity to deceive a victim is not currently addressed in the same way in the statute. To that end, we support

modernizing the identity theft statute to include those who knowingly engage in entity impersonation and deepfakes to perpetrate fraud.

Sadly, today's scams are increasingly sophisticated and often leverage the names of institutions people know and trust including government agencies such as the IRS and DMV, and state programs such as unemployment benefits. They also target private-sector organizations including banks, retailers, insurers, and others.

As this committee is aware, the harm from impersonation and identity fraud extends beyond immediate financial loss. Victims often face prolonged disruptions, reputational damage, emotional distress, and significant time spent resolving fraudulent activity. Small businesses can suffer disproportionate harm when operating funds are diverted, sometimes threatening their continued operation.

H 8060 is an appropriate response to a clear and growing threat. It equips law enforcement with necessary tools, protects Rhode Islanders from emerging forms of fraud, and helps ensure the law keeps pace with technological change. Thank you for considering the Chamber's perspective on this legislation and we urge its passage.

Sincerely,



Laurie White, President

Rhode Island Retail Federation