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April 9, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02906

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Committee Members:

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket. I write to express the Chamber's strong support of H.8060, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Impersonation and Identity Fraud.

The Chamber supports the bill's effort to explicitly address emerging threats, including those who knowingly engage in entity impersonation and the use of artificial intelligence-driven "deepfakes" to perpetrate fraud. Today's scams are no longer limited to simple phishing attempts; they frequently involve bad actors impersonating trusted institutions such as government agencies like the IRS and DMV, state-administered programs including unemployment systems, and even private-sector organizations such as banks, retailers, and insurers. These tactics erode consumer confidence and create real financial and reputational harm for businesses.

As technology continues to advance, fraudsters are leveraging tools such as AI-generated voice and video to create highly convincing impersonations, making it increasingly difficult for Rhode Islanders to detect and avoid scams. This not only places individuals at risk, but also imposes significant costs on businesses that must respond to fraud, protect customer data, and maintain trust in their brands.

H.8060 ensures that Rhode Island law keeps pace with these technological developments by equipping law enforcement with the tools needed to investigate and prosecute modern forms of identity theft. By strengthening protections against fraud, the bill helps safeguard consumers and businesses alike, while reinforcing a secure and trustworthy business environment.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for H.8060.

Respectfully,

Monika P. Zuluaga
President & CEO