



# Barrington Police Department

100 Federal Road • Barrington, Rhode Island 02806  
Telephone: (401) 437-3935 • Fax: (401) 437-3939



*Michael E. Correia*  
*Chief of Police*

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April 29, 2026

Chair Carol McEntee and Members  
House Judiciary Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 7753 –AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL  
OFFENSES -- DISARMING A PEACE OFFICER

Dear Chair McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Rhode Island House Bill H 7753, which would establish a felony offense for any person who knowingly removes or attempts to remove a firearm, weapon, or communication device from a peace officer during the performance of their official duties.

As Chief of the Barrington Police Department, a retired Major from the Providence Police Department, and current President of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association; I have seen firsthand the risks officers face when responding to volatile, unpredictable situations. Officers rely on equipment issued to them—including firearms, less-lethal tools such as conducted energy devices and chemical spray, and mobile communication devices—to safely perform their duties and protect the public. Any attempt to disarm an officer or deprive them of their ability to communicate creates an extremely dangerous situation.

An attempt to take an officer's weapon or disable their communications is an extremely dangerous act that can quickly turn a routine encounter into a life-threatening situation. Establishing a clear felony penalty for this conduct sends an important message that such behavior will not be tolerated and that the safety of law enforcement officers and the public is a priority.

This legislation also appropriately recognizes the modern tools officers rely on in the field. Today's policing environment requires constant communication and coordination among responding units. A radio or mobile communication device is essential for the safety of all involved, to include Officers, suspects, and the general public.



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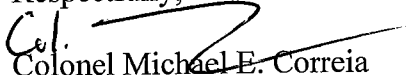
*Michael E. Correia*  
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Passage of this legislation will provide an important safeguard for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and will help deter conduct that places both officers and the public in immediate danger.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your continued support of policies that enhance public safety.

Respectfully,

  
Colonel Michael E. Correia

Chief of Police

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