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From: A P <parente419@gmail.com>
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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: HB-8432 Testimony

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Good Morning,

In support of HB-8432 I am writing not only as a Rhode Island resident but a Conductor with Keolis Commuter Services (MBTA) that the passing of this bill has no detriment to both the residents we serve of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and both the employees that provide interstate transportation.

So many of my fellow employees have faced violence in recent years including myself just in the past year when I was held at gunpoint by an assailant on board one of my own trains. The suspect was charged in Massachusetts with a similar bill that was passed to protect contract employees working for a railroad company, as the previous bill only covered Subway & Bus employees. When that bill protecting us was passed, many of my colleagues were relieved knowing that the state of Massachusetts and law enforcement had our backs and provided a safe work environment.

The passage of HB-8432 would extend that coverage across state lines, inclusive of train employees such as engineers, conductors and assistant conductors. If anything should go awry, crews will know that those who mean harm would be held accountable.

Thank you,

Alexander Parente
Conductor
North Smithfield RI