



March 9, 2021

Chairman Robert E. Craven
House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary
House Lounge, Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2021-H6049

Dear Chairman Craven:

On behalf of Day One, we are presenting testimony in support of H6049, an Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Sexual Assault. This act would establish criteria for the criminal offense of sexual assault when the victim is in the custody of a peace officer. This act would also provide that a person convicted of custodial sexual assault would face imprisonment for not more than (3) years.

For over 40 years Day One has worked in partnership with police departments across the state. We could not do the important work we do without the strong collaboration from law enforcement and our other multidisciplinary team members. Through our decades old partnerships, we have been able to implement our Law Enforcement Advocate (LEA) program. LEAs are based in police departments throughout Rhode Island and this model has resulted in a proven and effective support to victims.

There are instances where some police officers take advantage of their authority and have performed acts of sexual harassment, rape, and sexual extortion. It should not be legal for officers to have sexual activity with anyone in their care or custody.

Day One supports passing this legislation in order to protect vulnerable victims in Rhode Island. Victims of sexual assault deserve the right to be protected from any perpetrator regardless of authority.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peg Langhammer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peg Langhammer
Executive Director