



Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and  
Research Project (ESPLERP)  
2261 Market Street #548

January 24, 2022

Re: Support for House Bill 6637

To the members of the House Judiciary Committee,

We are writing to you to respectfully request your support for House Bill 6637.

This very important bill makes clear what should always be the legal standard — those being detained or in police custody should never be subject to sexual abuse or rape from “peace officers”. It is common sense that those who are detained or under arrest are legally incapable of consenting to sexual acts with peace officers who hold enormous power over them. We can never tolerate predators in any profession.

We outline below just a few examples that show this type of sexual abuse is very common, both nationwide and in the State of Rhode Island.

- Nationwide, 1219 officers were arrested for sex-related crimes from 2005 through 2012. 17 percent of the officers arrested for sex crimes (213 officers total) were charged in multiple sex-related cases, meaning they were either repeat offenders or had multiple victims.
- A report from the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women found that instead of preventing child and adult sex trafficking, many police officers are participating in it.
- A correctional officer at the ACI in Cranston is facing numerous charges after an investigation revealed he was having sex with an inmate.
- A Carlisle, Pennsylvania, police narcotics detective and FBI Task Force Officer was found guilty of abusing power, having sex with informants, and giving them drugs.

We also ask you to add an amendment to H6637 to expand its protection to people under investigation by law enforcement, and not just people detained or in custody.

You have the power to stop this systemic abuse. We urge you to support H6637.

Sincerely,

Maxine Doogan,

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*The Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) is a diverse community-based coalition advancing sexual privacy rights through litigation, education, and research.*

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