

To the members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Lee Rodman and I am a resident of Providence, RI, District 4 (Rep. Kislak). I am writing to you today in support of House Bill H6637, for the following reasons.

This 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.

Even for people who are convicted of crime, their sentences do NOT say that they must endure sexual assault. This should never be inflicted on anyone. Let’s make sure our laws leave no room for doubt.

Below I have outlined several examples that show this type of sexual abuse is common. It is a human rights violation that must be stopped.

1. [In the news](#) January 2022- Judge tells ex-prison guard convicted of sexually assaulting an incarcerated woman that he can join the military or go to jail
2. [News headline](#) from December 6th, 2021 “Correctional office at the ACI in Cranston is facing numerous charges after an investigation revealed he was having sex with an inmate.” We are shocked that the sexual assault of an incarcerated person is being labeled as consensual sex by the media.
3. [Study Finds Nearly Half of Child and Adult Sex Trafficking Victims Were Abused by Police](#)
4. [Feds: Police, FBI Task Force Officer in Pennsylvania Had Sex With Informants, Gave Out Drugs](#)

There are countless more examples.

In light of the evidence I have presented above, it leads me to ask to add an amendment to H6637 to expand this 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.

Please vote YES on H6637

Sincerely,

Lee Rodman

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