

Date: April 8, 2025  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear State Assembly,

On behalf of the Providence Human Relations Commission, we are writing to express our strong support for Rhode Island House Bill H-5887, which changes the name of the holiday on the second Monday of August from "Victory Day" to "Peace and Remembrance Day". This legislation aligns with the Commission's mission to promote human rights, ensure equal opportunity, and work toward eliminating discrimination across all sectors of society.

Renaming this holiday to "Peace and Remembrance Day" helps recognize a piece of our past that does not need to be repeated and allows us to look towards a more peaceful future and solutions. Removing the name "Victory Over Japan Day" will send a message of inclusivity and welcome in Rhode Island, specifically for Asian Americans and especially for individuals of Japanese descent.

As our state continues to progress toward a more inclusive society, this legislation represents a critical step in ensuring that all residents, regardless of their background, are treated equitably.

The Commission is committed to fostering social equity and supporting policy initiatives that uplift and protect vulnerable communities. H-5887 will directly contribute to this goal by supporting our mission and vision to celebrate and elevate Providence's diverse cultural communities and to protect the civil rights of Providence residents.

We urge the General Assembly to support the swift passage of this important legislation. We are confident that H-5887 will help make Rhode Island a more just and equitable state for all.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,

The Providence Human Relations Commission

**Executive Director:** Wendy Johnson



**Chair:** Dr. Celeste -Terry-Lo

