

Testimony in Support of House Bill 7302
Special Legislation Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Chair and Members of the Committee,
I respectfully submit testimony in support of House Bill 7302, by Rep. Carson –
Newport, which authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a specialty
license
plate supporting the Lime Rock Foundation.

This specialty plate would highlight and help bring broader public recognition to Ida
Lewis, one of Rhode Island's most remarkable historical figures. Ida Lewis served
as
the keeper of the Lime Rock Lighthouse in Newport in the 19th century and is widely
known for her extraordinary bravery, rescuing numerous people from the waters of
Newport Harbor during dangerous conditions. Her courage and dedication to saving
lives made her a nationally recognized hero in her time and an enduring symbol of
Rhode Island's maritime history.

The Lime Rock Foundation works to preserve and elevate Ida Lewis's legacy,
ensuring that her contributions—and the broader history of maritime safety and
service
she represents—are remembered and shared with future generations. A specialty
license plate would provide a visible and meaningful way to recognize this legacy
across Rhode Island.

Specialty license plates have long allowed Rhode Islanders to express pride in our
state's history and support organizations that preserve it. This plate would give
residents the opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of Ida Lewis while
supporting
the foundation's efforts to educate the public about her story.

Importantly, participation is entirely voluntary. Residents who wish to support this
effort
may do so by choosing the plate, while also helping ensure that Rhode Island's rich
maritime history—and the heroism of Ida Lewis—continues to be recognized.
For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support passage of House
Bill
7302.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
William O'Hanley

