



Testimony in Support of H-7736 – Impact Statement Act

April 6, 2022

On behalf of the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University, we strongly support the passage of the Impact Statement Act (H-7736).

This act would require that legislators consider and explicitly include a brief impact statement with proposed bills discussing whether the legislation would decrease, increase, or have no effect on racial, ethnic, gender, and/or disability based disparities. Rhode Island should proceed with intentionality when drafting legislation to ensure that our state does not continue to overlook or intentionally harm historically marginalized communities. As an organization committed to advocating and elevating the needs and experiences of the Latino community through policy and research we understand firsthand how the lack of a thorough examination of the equity impacts within legislation can have on our communities.

About seventeen states, including our neighbor Connecticut, have passed Impact Statement Act legislation within the last decade. As our state continues its commitment to policy issues such as housing, education, and health, it is imperative that we utilize legislation like the Impact Statement Act to underscore and understand the deep and long lasting impacts of investments, divestments, and new laws on our most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

We urge this committee to pass this important legislation so that Rhode Island can lead by example and demonstrate its commitment to equity among all our community members, especially those who need us the most.

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