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## RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley  
Chairman, House State Government and Elections Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

### **RE: House Bill No. H5618 Relating to Health and Safety – The Mandatory Carrying of Epinephrine Autoinjectors by Police Officers.**

Dear Chairman Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association (RIPCA) to voice our strong opposition, as written, for the House bill referenced above regarding the requirement of police officers to carry epinephrine autoinjectors.

We certainly respect the theory behind making such life saving devices as available as possible however, the proposed legislation makes an assumption that every police officer in the state has the same role and responsibilities. Many police agencies don't respond to medical calls so equipping those departments with these devices isn't beneficial and consideration should be to remove the "shall" and replace with "may."

Also based on some quick consultation with our EMS counterparts we learned that the epinephrine autoinjectors are very susceptible to the extreme cold and heat, so making them available in cruisers isn't viable. We have also learned these devices have a shelf life of 18 months, so the expense of the autoinjectors would be recurring every 18 months under the best of conditions. Two packs of the autoinjectors is approximately \$425, and estimating a medium sized department with 40 officers would have an initial cost of approximately \$8,500 and based on the shelf life would incur this cost every 18 months.

Lastly, the suggestion that an officer would be fined for not carrying the autoinjector on an hourly bases is something we could never support.

Continued: RIPCA opposition letter H5618

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of the RIPCA and as always, I am available for any follow-up questions you or the committee may have, and we are willing to continue discussions with the bill's sponsors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sidney Wordell".

Sidney Wordell  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association