



**We Make Rhode Island Happen**

**AFSCME Rhode Island Council 94**

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

1179 Charles Street, North Providence, RI 02904

Phone: (401) 724-5900 • Fax: (401) 724-2060 • [www.ricouncil94.org](http://www.ricouncil94.org)

March 13, 2025

Dear House State Government & Elections Committee Member,

RI Council, 94 AFSCME opposes H-5870, which would create a framework for Public Private Partnerships.

Public Private Partnerships (P3s) are an alternative finance mechanism which allows a state/municipality to enter into a contract with a private corporation to build and then operate a public structure/facility such as a road, bridge, power plant, University/College Dorm etc.

AFSCME has routinely objected to the use of P3s because:

- They avoid public scrutiny and voter approval required by the ballot question/bonding process.
- The lack of transparency can lead to higher construction/service costs and significant revenue loss.
- P3s are back door for privatization of public services, loss of control, and service degradation due the conflict of public need versus profit motive.

Council 94 has engaged in negotiations/discussions with URI to utilize a Public Private Partnership to construct a new dorm. If General Assembly decides P3s are going to be used then, Council 94 suggests:

- A thorough public cost/benefit evaluation/analysis process for any state, municipal, quasi-public facility that will be built using a Public Private Partnership as required in RIGL Chapters 148 and 149 of Title 42. The current legislation appears to only cover state P3 projects.
- Public employees continue to provide service delivery after construction is complete.
- Public transparency/accountability for any service delivery performed by a private vendor as required by RIGL Chapter 2.3 of Title 37.

Council 94 is willing to work on mutually agreeable language if desired .

In closing, we respectfully ask you to oppose H-5870.

Sincerely,

Michael McDonald  
President

James A. Cenerini  
Legislative Affairs/Political Action Coordinator