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18 April 2025

Chairman Shanley
House State Government and Elections Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02906

Chairman Shanley, Vice Chair Messier, Vice Chair Corvese and Members of the
House State Government and Elections Committee

***Subj: HS 5715 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND
EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM--ADMINISTRATION***

I wish to state my full support for H 5715, which requires the ERSRI Board to
publish online all archived video or audio recordings and all future recordings of
meetings of the Board.

Although ERSRI does live stream Board Meetings, heretofore Active members of
ERSRI and Rhode Islanders in general, were at distinct disadvantage when it came
to viewing the Meetings. Since the meetings are typically scheduled during the
day, the majority of Active ERSRI members are unable to attend due to their work
commitments.

That has now changed with a Policy change approved by the ERSRI Board. The
Public has been requesting this change for a while now and GT Diossa has
responded to these appeals and backed this change,

The ERSRI Board has voted for a policy change to record and archive the Board
meetings. However, there is no law requiring this, and any policy can be reversed.

There are two Bills, H 5715 and S 0514, currently in the General Assembly to
codify this Policy into RIGL. Both Bills have the Support of General Treasurer
Diossa and Secretary of State Amore.

For many Municipalities in Rhode Island, recording and archiving meetings is a common practice but for some unknown reason, this was not occurring at the ERSRI. The proposed legislation will remedy and codify that oversight.

I would urge you to support this legislation in the spirit of Open and Transparent Government.

Your time and deliberation in support of this matter is appreciated.

Very respectfully,

A.G. Palazzo
CDR USN (Ret)

Advocates for COLA Restoration and Pension Reform
H 5715
Testifying in Favor of H 5715

CC: Secretary of State Amore, General Treasurer Diossa, Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee, Speaker Shekarchi, Rep Corvese, Rep Ajello, Rep Baginski, Rep Brien, Rep Dawson, Rep Kazarian, Rep Kennedy, Rep Knight, Rep McGaw, Rep Newberry, Rep Paplauskas, Rep Stewart, Rep Tanzi, Rep Serpa, Rep Fellela, Mr. Sepe