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ACLU OF RI POSITION: AMEND

TESTIMONY ON 25-H 6234, RELATING TO ELECTIONS – RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTING April 29, 2025

The ACLU of Rhode Island has no position on what we understand to be the intended changes being proposed to the state's campaign finance statutes by this bill. However, we believe two sections need to be clarified to better express their intent. We refer specifically to language that appears on Page 8, lines 1-7 and Page 14, lines 26-32.

It is our understanding that the goal of this language is to require candidates, political party committees and other entities that must currently report their campaign expenditures to provide greater detail when they are paying vendors (such as a credit card company) that are intermediaries in the disbursement of the expenditures to other third parties. As the bill is written, however, it appears to place a new burden *on those vendors* to report the expenditures. This would clearly place a novel campaign reporting obligation on these entities, and one that we believe is inappropriate.

We therefore urge that those sections of the bill be revised to better clarify this intent and avoid any misunderstanding as to who has the responsibility to report this information.

Thank you for considering our views.