



Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

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March 31, 2026

The Honorable Representative Evan Shanley
Chair, House State Government & Elections Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 7305

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the member institutions of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of *Rhode Island*, I am writing to express our **opposition to House Bill 7305**.

This legislation seeks to amend the Access to Public Records Act (APRA) and includes some concerning language regarding Rhode Island private colleges and universities' public safety officers. APRA is a significant piece of legislation that protects the public's right to use and access of records. However, as AICU *Rhode Island* member institutions are independently funded and operated, this legislation would be an infringement on institutional autonomy.

Independent institutions have the right to keep their confidential records private, especially records involving students and school community members. The language in the bill stipulates that a police report of an incident that does not lead to an arrest should become public record. Private institutions have the autonomy to handle matters internally when they do not require assistance from the police of jurisdiction. Private information should not be made available to the public in the best interest of the student and others involved. This would interfere with student privacy standards and could potentially violate the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) which protect students from unauthorized access of educational/personal records at their institution.

Private institutions are exempt from public access to their confidential records and should retain autonomy over personal student information.

With these points in mind, AICU *Rhode Island* **opposes House Bill 7305**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Egan", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or background.

Daniel P. Egan
President