



State of Rhode Island

**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**

**Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State**

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House Committee on State Government & Elections

RE: In support of H7495 – An Act Relating to Elections – Safeguarding Election Candidates Using Reasonable Expenditures Act

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 7495, legislation that would allow candidates to use campaign funds, on a limited basis, for security-related expenses to enhance home and office security systems. As candidates and elected officials nationwide face escalating threats of violence, this legislation would allow campaign funds to be used to help protect their staff and families.

I have been proud to serve as Secretary of State over the past three years, and as a State Representative prior to that – I honor the position that voters have provided me with and am grateful for the opportunity to serve them. However, I have also experienced an increase in threats, including a swatting attempt at my home and an emailed threat to my life. The Department of State's offices have also faced security incidents, including an envelope with suspicious powder being delivered via mail to our Elections Division.

With this bill, elected officials and candidates alike can use a limited amount of funds from their campaigns to ensure they are safe where they live and to protect their families. Furthermore, this legislation establishes standards to uphold the public's trust in the administration of campaign finance by instituting parameters for the use of funds and their proper disclosure in campaign finance reports.

I urge this Committee and the full House to support House Bill 7495 to provide an additional tool for candidates and elected officials to enhance their personal safety.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections  
The Honorable Jennifer Boylan