



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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March 30, 2026

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7495 – Safeguarding Election Candidates Using Reasonable Expenditures Act

Honorable Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to share the Board's Legislative Committee's position on House bill 7495, which is scheduled to be heard by the committee on March 31, 2026. This act would authorize the use of campaign funds for security-related expenses, including home and office security systems and ongoing monitoring, in response to threats arising from their public service or candidacy.

On March 3, 2026, the Board's Legislative Committee voted to table this bill, pending changes recommended by Campaign Finance, including clarifying language for consistency with existing statutory language and including authority by the Board to approve the security related expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Thornton
Director of Campaign Finance
Rhode Island Board of Elections

**cc: Representative Mary Messier, First Vice Chair
Representative Arthur J. Corvese, Second Vice Chair
The Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Steve Sepe, Committee Clerk**