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From: Alex Diaz-Papkovich <alex.diazpapkovich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 9:43 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Please support H7576

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Dear Chair Shanley and Committee members,

My name is Alex Diaz-Papkovich, I live in Providence, and **I am writing in support of Bill H7576**, Rep. Kislak's Access to Public Records Act that would make traffic crash data publicly available in Rhode Island, as in [42 other states](#). According to RIDOT's [FY2025 Highway Safety Improvement Program Annual Report](#), 556 people were killed in traffic crashes in Rhode Island between 2016 and 2024, and 2,664 were seriously injured. Unfortunately RIDOT does not grant public access to these crash records. **To keep our communities safe from traffic violence, we must have public access to crash records to know where, when, why, and how car crashes are happening.**

I am a professional statistician, and outside of my work I am a public safety advocate. **Good decision-making requires good data**, so I have volunteered with others to gather crash records through FOIA requests to Rhode Island communities. Despite our lengthy efforts, we were unable to get complete records for most communities in Rhode Island—most city workers and police liaisons do not know how to retrieve the data that we need, nor do they have the expertise to answer our questions. **By keeping data hidden, RIDOT is wasting time and taxpayer dollars, and making it harder to keep our communities safe.**

Many state DOTs, like [MassDOT](#), maintain their own data portals so the public can see where crashes are occurring, and work towards safety improvements that protect human life and limb. **Making data publicly available is a common sense step to keeping road users safe.** Rhode Island should not remain a national outlier in secrecy — this public records reform now before the Committee is an essential step toward the open government we all deserve.

I urge you to please support H7576.

Sincerely,

Alex Diaz-Papkovich, PhD
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