

## Jill Cataldi

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**From:** barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Barry Schiller writing in opposition to H5891A

This is Barry Schiller is writing to oppose H5891A being heard today, 6/14.

The bill seems to allow public bodies to continue to hold virtual meetings for another two years even after the state of emergency due to covid may be over.

Virtual meetings may be necessary due to covid but are not nearly as good as what occurs when the public can be present. In-person contacts allow for interchange of ideas between legislators, public officials, and the public and amongst attendees. In-person meetings allow the public to show support for, or opposition to, bills and/or policies even when they do not submit testimony - that is part of democracy.

I was once on a Board (RIPTA, 1995-99) and always appreciated the public coming to our meetings, sometimes at the last minute, and both formally and informally sharing their concerns. Please continue to require public agencies to have in-person meetings when the emergency covid restrictions are lifted.

Thank you for considering my views.

Barry Schiller, North Providence

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