

Chairman Azzinaro et al.,

I am a retired naval officer with twenty-three years of active duty service and a Legacy Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I previously served in a number of leadership positions within the VFW's Department of Rhode Island, and am quite familiar with the duties, responsibilities, and operations of veteran service officers presently funded by the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services.

I am writing in support of the following Bills before you in this hearing:

1. House Bill No. 5128 sponsored by Rep. Vella-Wilinson et al.
2. House Resolution No. 5150 sponsored by Chairman Azzinaro et al.

I fully support increasing access to trained and U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs-accredited Veteran Service Officers throughout Rhode Island. In my opinion, House Bill No. 5129 is not the best approach. **I recommend holding this bill for further study.**

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V/R,

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