

Ernest Almonte

Chairman

Rhode Island Convention Center Authority

Chairman DiPalma, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As Chairman of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority, I respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bills 2664 and 2814. The Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau plays an integral role in our continued success, serving as a collaborative partner that amplifies our reach and impact across the state. Through our joint efforts, we have generated significant economic benefits for Rhode Island, attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and creating jobs.

It is vital that Rhode Island remain competitive with other states in attracting meetings, conventions, and sporting events, especially at the state-owned Rhode Island Convention Center Authority. The work of GoProvidence and its subsidiary, the Rhode Island Sports Commission, benefits every region of the state, not just Providence and Warwick. Their collaborative efforts enhance Rhode Island's visibility and economic vitality statewide.

Disrupting this effective partnership would jeopardize the positive momentum we have built together. I ask you to consider the proven value of our collaboration and its substantial contribution to Rhode Island's economy as you deliberate on these bills.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate that I am in opposition to these bills.

Sincerely,



Ernest Almonte

Chairman, Rhode Island Convention Center Authority

Date: April 8, 2026