



Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
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3.31.26

Senator Victoria Gu
Chair Senate Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
Via Email: sen-gu@rilegislature.gov

RE: Support S-2638 AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

Dear Madam Chair,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to you today in **support of S-2638**

People who prey on innocent people in any manner are the worst form of human. The majority of victims of this type of crime tends to also fall onto the good people, those who trust too much, those who want to believe that people would not purposely harm them. Too often, the elderly are baited into a conversation where they expose their information and they don't think twice about it until their error comes back to haunt them. It is not only the elderly who are violated this way. Many of my members have had some form of identity fraud in their own world. Whereas construction workers are not in front of a computer all day, they often would not even see an alert from their credit card company or bank until it is too late. Check washing, identity theft, mortgage fraud, fake credit card accounts and other scams must be put to an end in a swift and definite manner. This modernized language and increased ability to penalize should go a long way in protecting the most vulnerable people from the miscreants that would do them harm.

In conclusion, **we support the passage of S-2638** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.", with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the page.

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager

cc:
Ryan Harackiewicz / Committee Clerk
Committee Members
Paul Macdonald / Local 99 Lobbyist
Pat Crowley/Erica Hammond RI AFL-CIO