

April 21, 2009

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

We wish to collectively express our **opposition to FY10 Budget Article 18**. Article 18 would change our current seat belt law from a secondary to a primary offense. Because Rhode Island has a history of racial profiling – documented by three years worth of data – we are concerned that this change would open the door to increased discrimination in traffic stops.

Just as we have been *fighting* legislation such as this for a number of years, we have been *advocating* for passage of stronger anti-racial profiling legislation introduced by Senator Perry. Passage of Article 18 is a step backwards in the fight against racial profiling. We therefore urge the committee to reject Article 18.

Sincerely,

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American Friends Service Committee – SE New England

Carolyn Campos  
Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy

Elmer Pina  
East Providence Affirmative Action Office

Richard Harris  
National Association of Social Workers – RI Chapter

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