



128 Dorrance Street,
Suite 400
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: (401) 831-7171
Fax: (401) 831-7175
www.riaclu.org
info@riaclu.org

ACLU OF RI POSITION: AMEND

TESTIMONY ON 25-H 6318, RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ENFORCEMENT May 27, 2025

While the ACLU of Rhode Island has a long history of opposition to camera-enforced traffic laws, school bus cameras can serve a very focused and limited purpose that does not raise the same level of concern as other traffic surveillance cameras.

However, if school bus cameras are going to become ubiquitous by state mandate, we strongly urge an amendment to this bill to ensure that their use is not inappropriately expanded in privacy-infringing ways. Specifically, we urge the deletion on Page 1, line 6 of the words “at a minimum,” language that does, in fact, give school districts open-ended authority to use bus surveillance cameras in ways far beyond this specific purpose.

School districts should not be purchasing camera technology that does anything more than detect school bus violations. Knowing how technology vendors push their products, concerns about the purchase of even more invasive surveillance technology should not be discounted. Those concerns are exacerbated when the use of school bus cameras is made mandatory.

We therefore urge the committee to make the amendment requested above should the legislation be considered for passage.¹ Thank you for considering our views.

¹ We note that a Senate version of this bill includes a separate amendment that we find problematic, as it would allow violators to be charged with the same offense under two separate statutes.