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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 26-H 7583, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE – PROCEDURE GENERALLY – FEES April 29, 2026

The ACLU of Rhode Island is appreciative of the opportunity to provide supportive testimony for this legislation, which would double from \$25 to \$50 the daily compensation for jurors.

Though the right to a trial by jury is a cornerstone of our Constitutional rights, the exceptionally low rates of compensation that jurors are provided for these services can have a significant impact on lower-income individuals wanting to participate in such an important civic process. The extremely modest increase in compensation proposed by this bill is not going to make them wealthy, but it at least acknowledges that exercising this civic duty warrants more than the meager payments that are currently made.

In short, we are glad to see this legislation before the committee today and encourage its passage. Thank you for your consideration.