



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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*Peter F. Neronha*  
*Attorney General*

October 15, 2021

**Via Email: [sbrown@riaclu.org](mailto:sbrown@riaclu.org)**

Steven Brown, Executive Director  
American Civil Liberties Union  
128 Dorrance Street  
Suite 400  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Brown:

I received your letter today seeking assurance that this Office would decline to bring a criminal charge against the R. I. Democratic Women's Caucus ("RIDWC") for violation of R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-23-7 based on the inclusion of the word "Democratic" in the Caucus' name. To be clear, this Office has not, to date, received a complaint from the Rhode Island Democratic Party ("RIDP") or any other person or entity regarding this matter.

As Attorney General, it is within my broad discretion to determine what criminal or civil enforcement actions we bring on behalf of the people of Rhode Island. This discretion is guided by this Office's overarching mission to protect public safety and advance the public interest of the people of this State. The challenges facing Rhode Island and within the direct responsibility of this Office are many, and include matters involving violent crime, crimes against children, healthcare regulation, and environmental protection, to name just a few. This is where this Office's focus rightly belongs.

Accordingly, consistent with these principles, should a complaint of the kind you describe in your letter be received by this Office, I will not expend any of our limited prosecutorial or civil enforcement resources on such a complaint.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha  
Attorney General

Cc: Samantha Weizer, RIDWC  
Kate Coyne-McCoy, RIDP