



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: SUPPORT

**TESTIMONY ON 22 – H 7829,
AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – OPEN MEETINGS
March 31, 2022**

Accessibility to open meetings is a critical component of transparent government. As such, we are supportive of this legislation which would bolster such accessibility by requiring a “translation assistance plan” for all public bodies.

This bill importantly acknowledges that residents in the state of Rhode Island, who are all affected by the events at public meetings, face different levels of accessibility to these meetings dependent on their unique language abilities. Ensuring more robust translation services helps ensure that opportunities for participation are not limited only to those residents who speak and easily comprehend the language that the meeting is conducted in.

This legislation is a good piece of public policy and a good piece of government transparency policy. We support its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.