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**TESTIMONY ON 20-H 7101,
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – STATEWIDE PUBLIC
SAFETY COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
January 22, 2020**

H-7101 would allow the Rhode Island State Police to develop a statewide records management system. Although the ACLU has a general concern any time the government creates a large database of personal information, we recognize the interjurisdictional gaps in information among police departments that have generated this proposal, and we are pleased that Section §42-28.10-5 (page 2, line 31- page 3, line 7) of the bill notes that privacy and civil liberties protections must be prioritized in the usage of this system.

In particular, that section's limits on access to, and dissemination of, information in the system; its requirement for the timely destruction of information; and its mandate for enactment of a privacy policy are all important safeguards that we applaud. Our comments are therefore not aimed at the bill's concept, but rather at suggesting amendments to better ensure the inclusion of those protections in the system.

In particular, we believe that in a few instances, more specificity, based in large part on safeguards enshrined in federal regulation for *federal* criminal database systems, would better ensure the protection of privacy and civil rights. We refer particularly to 28 CFR Part 23 which establishes operating principles for those federal databases.

Specifically, we would encourage that the bill include:

* A requirement that the privacy policy mandated by §42-28.10-5(c) be publicly promulgated and adopted prior to the system's implementation;

* A requirement similar to 28 C.F.R. §23.20(b), generally restricting the collection of information about First Amendment-protected activities.

* A requirement similar to 28 C.F.R. §23.20(a), allowing for the collection and maintenance of “criminal intelligence information concerning an individual only if there is reasonable suspicion that the individual is involved in criminal conduct or activity and the information is relevant to criminal conduct or activity.”

* In accordance with best practices, a formal requirement that the system be set up to log who accesses the system of records, how and for what purpose, and that there be a mechanism for independent auditing of those logs to guard against illegitimate repurposing of the records or other abuses.

In sum, we are pleased that this bill appropriately grants importance to the intersection of statewide records systems and civil liberties and the balance that must be maintained between the two. With these suggested changes, the bill will ensure a much more robust incorporation of civil liberties into the development and enactment of this new system.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.