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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 21 – H 5741 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – STATE BUILDING CODE March 15, 2021

The ACLU of RI is appreciative of the opportunity to provide commentary in support of this piece of legislation which would require all single-user toilet facilities in a public building to be made available to all individuals regardless of their gender identity or expression. This legislation is an important step in ensuring comfort and autonomy for all Rhode Island residents, and we believe that the statutory promotion and protection of such a policy would be critical for LGBTQ+ rights in Rhode Island.

In addition to preserving individual bodily autonomy, this legislation would also ensure that individuals – particularly LGBTQ+ individuals – can feel assured that there will be accessible and safe bathroom access whenever they are in a public building. This is an important piece of both public health and non-discrimination legislation, and we urge its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.