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## **ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT RULE 6.15**

### **TESTIMONY ON 25-S 594, SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES OF THE SENATE 2025-2026 March 3, 2025**

The ACLU of Rhode Island wishes to offer its strong support for this resolution's amendment to Rule 6.15, which would now provide that: "Written testimony relating to legislation shall be published online."

As committee members know, the House adopted such a policy a few years ago and it has been a tremendous boon to promoting transparency and the public's right to know. While concerns had previously been expressed by some Senators that making written testimony easily accessible might somehow infringe on the privacy rights of individuals, the ACLU – as an organization that values both the right to privacy and the public's right to know – has never considered such disclosure an infringement on privacy. Indeed, since the current rules already make written testimony available to the public upon request, the proposed rules amendment simply makes this information more readily available.

Just as this body has embraced the livestreaming of committee meetings, interested members of the public should not have to take the time and effort to come to the State House to gain information about the input being provided to legislative committees on the important bills they are considering. Whether provided in writing or verbally, committee testimony should be easily accessible. With this proposed amendment, we are pleased that there will be greater transparency in the committee process.