

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY TESTIMONY

**LATINO**  
POLICY INSTITUTE

— Research | Advocacy | Education —



## **Testimony in Support of H-7829**

**March 31, 2022**

On behalf of the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University, we strongly support the passage of H-7829 requiring that public bodies offer translations services at all open meetings.

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-1

“It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that public business be performed in an open and public manner and that the citizens be advised of and aware of the performance of public officials and the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy.”

Rhode Island unequivocally states that public business must be accessible in order to maintain a democratic society. By providing translation services upon request, we ensure that all residents of Rhode Island are able to participate in the democratic process. The democratic process belongs to us all.

Marcela Betancur  
Executive Director  
Latino Policy Institute