



March 8th, 2023

Dear House & Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a Rhode Island voter and a representative from COYOTE RI writing to you today in strong support of [S037/H5896](#). This bill would further define coercion so as to include sexual assault by a member of law enforcement who has the victim under arrest, in custody or detained or by any person who has supervisory authority over the victim's parole, probation or home confinement. This act would take effect upon passage.

**H5896 makes clear what should always be the legal standard — those being detained or in police custody should never be subject to sexual abuse or rape from “peace officers.” It is common sense that those who are detained or under arrest are legally incapable of consenting to sexual acts with peace officers who hold enormous power over them. We can never tolerate predators in any profession.**

Research show that this type of state sponsored violence on marginalized women is a issue nationwide

This [study](#) reveals that 1,219 officers were arrested for sex-related crimes from 2005 through 2012 and we have no idea how many sex-related crimes by peace officers were not reported. 17 percent of the officers arrested for sex crimes (213 officers total) were charged in multiple sex-related cases, meaning they were either repeat offenders or had multiple victims.

In a [survey](#) performed by COYOTE and Brown University, made possible by a grant from the American Sociological Association, 47% of Rhode Island sex workers and sex trafficking survivors reported being a victim or witnesses of a serious crime they hadn't reported. When they did try to report crimes, 79% of Rhode Island sex workers said that they were turned away without having their report taken. Even worse, 27% of Rhode Island sex workers were arrested or threatened with arrest while trying to report a violent crime. **24% of the participants reported being robbed, raped, or assaulted by police.**

Here are a few more examples

RAPISTS WITH BADGES GUNS AND HANDCUFFS

POLICE OFFICER ROB RAPE EXTORT SOLICIT PIMP KILL SEX WORKERS

PEDOPHILES AND CHILD PORN- THE COPS, JUDGES, DAs, FBI AGENTS, SECRET SERVICE  
AGENTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO CAN'T KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF  
MINORS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS: ASSAULT MURDER-SUICIDE

This Officer Was Under Investigation When He Shot and Murdered Sex Worker Donna Dalton

FBI Informant Encouraged To Have Sex In War On Terror

Feds: Police, FBI Task Force Officer in Pennsylvania Had Sex With Informants, Gave Out Drugs

How a Married Undercover Cop Having Sex With Activists Killed a Climate Movement

Please be part of the solution and vote YES on S0372

Thank you for your time and consideration

Bella Robinson Executive director

COYOTE RI (401-) 525-8757

43 Old Carriage RD West Warwick, RI 02893

<bella@coyoteri.org>