

Call Off Your Old
Tired Ethics



March 19th, 2023

Please Amend H6140

Dear Members of the House Judiciary:

We are writing to urge you to amend H6140, which would allow clients of sex workers and some sex workers and sex trafficking survivors to report crimes without fear of arrest.

Clearly allowing sex workers, sex trafficking survivors, and our clients to report victimization is an idea that's time has finally come. We appreciate your giving this important topic the attention needed to move public safety forward in Rhode Island. We are asking for an amendment to this bill:

1. Please add 23-20.8-3. *Practice of massage therapy – License required* to the list of crimes reporters can not be charged with. This would allow Rhode Island's most vulnerable sex workers to report without fear of arrest (though, of course, they would still risk their workplace being shut down). To not include Asian massage parlor workers in these protections may be a violation of equal protection.
- 2.
3. Please clarify what is meant by "crime." We want people to be able to report any kind of crime against a person, but extending this immunity to the reporting of moral crimes, like prostitution, could have unintended consequences.

Again, thank you for your attention to this important issue and we urge you to take the actions necessary to pass a usable and constitutionally aligned bill allowing ALL sex workers, sex trafficking survivors, and clients to report victimization without fear of arrest during the 2023 legislative session.

Respectfully,

Bella Robinson
Tara Burns
Kayla Katt
Ramona Flour

COYOTE RI

Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics, Rhode Island (COYOTE RI) is a group of current and former sex workers and sex trafficking survivors working on policy for improved health and safety for people in Rhode Island's sex industry. Learn more at www.coyoteri.org