



SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF COYOTE RI

To the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Bella Robinson. I am a resident of (West Warwick, RI, District 27- representative Patricia Serpa) We are writing to you today in support of S2233, with an amendment for the following reasons.

This bill 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.

Below I have outlined several examples locally and nationwide, that show this type of sexual abuse is common and is a human rights violation that must be stopped.

[In the news](#) January 2022- Judge tells ex-prison guard convicted of sexually assaulting an incarcerated woman that he can join the military or go to jail

[News headline](#) from December 6th, 2021 “Correctional office at the ACI in Cranston is facing numerous charges after an investigation revealed he was having sex with an inmate.” We are shocked that the sexual assault of an incarcerated person is being labeled as consensual sex by the media.

[Central Falls police officer was accused of sexual assault, misconduct, and lying.](#)

[Former Narragansett police officer charged in a child pornography case](#)

[Justice Department Alleges Conditions at Lowell Correctional Institution Violate the Constitution](#)

[Prisoner details alleged beating, sexual assault at N.J. women’s prison in the lawsuit](#)

[Bronx DA drops rape charges against Rikers Island medic, blaming criminal justice reform- January 16th, 2022](#)

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.

[Study Finds Nearly Half of Child and Adult Sex Trafficking Victims Were Abused by Police](#)

[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](#)

In collaboration with CSSJ Brown University, COYOTE RI [surveyed 63 RI sex workers \(2014-2016\)](#) 24% of them reported being robbed, raped or assaulted by police.

In light of the evidence I have presented above, it leads me to ask to add an amendment to SB2233 to expand this protection to people under investigation by law enforcement, and not just people detained or in custody. You have the power to stop this systemic abuse.

Please vote YES on S2233 with the suggested amendment.

Sincerely,

Bella Robinson (West Warwick, RI)

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