



Rhode Island State Council of Churches and the Rhode Island Bible Society

Mr. Jeremy M. Langill
Executive Minister

March 26, 2024

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The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon
Chair, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H-7211

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I am writing today in support of H-7211. The Rhode Island State Council of Churches strongly supports protecting Rhode Islanders from predatory and deceptive loan practices.

As people of faith, we are guided by lessons drawn from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. In the former, scripture is explicitly clear that we are not to engage in exploitative lending behavior, especially to those who have no real or legitimate means to escape poverty.

The New Testament consistently teaches that we are to care for one another, especially for those who are in the greatest need. Christian theological reflection has a long and consistent history of rejecting abusive economic practices, including usury.

On balance, H-7211 provides a fair regulative scheme that protects our most vulnerable Rhode Islanders. The Rhode Island State Council of Churches urges passage of H-7211.

Thank for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Langill
Executive Minister