

STUDENT COALITION AGAINST RACIAL PROFILING
(In support of Representative Almeida's bill H - 7112 - 2010)
Instructions

The Student Coalition Against Racial Profiling is a joint effort between students from 3 Rhode Island Colleges that offer social work education and the National Association of Social Workers - Rhode Island Chapter (NASW - RI). Students who believe that racial profiling exist in the state of Rhode Island have banded together in expressing their opposition to the practice and expressing support for Representative Almeida's bill that would help alleviate this problem. It is not necessarily the belief of NASW - RI or coalition members that intentional racism is widespread throughout the ranks of law enforcement, but that institutional discrimination and inherent bias based on color or ethnicity unconsciously influence decisions that result in pre-text stops. This process may best be demonstrated by a recent comment of a Haitian earthquake survivor. He stated; "If a black man is roaming the streets, he is believed to be looting. If a white man is roaming the streets, he is believed to be looking for food to survive." This type of unintentional thinking can happen to all us despite training and profession guidelines. Regardless of the nature of intent, the fact sheet included in this tool kit demonstrates, based on an empirical study by Northeastern University, that racial profiling does exist in Rhode Island.

We are asking students who agree to be part of this coalition to do so because they have reviewed all materials in this Advocacy Tool Kit and have also done research on their own and have come to the same conclusion as we have. The goal of this coalition is to have as many e-mails as possible sent to the House Judiciary Committee by no later than March 1, 2010. A similar action will be requested for the bill when it is introduced in the Senate.

All Coalition members must agree to the follow format and action methods stated below:

1. Use the Coalition letterhead (e-mail) template.
2. Review all materials and write your letter in a respectful and accurate way. A sample letter is provided in this tool kit, however you may certainly vary from the way this letter is written as long as you use the basic template. You may use the sample letter or write an original letter as long as you are expressing your thoughts respectfully. (Representative Almeida may use the total number of letters in his argument.)
3. E-mail your letter to the House Judiciary Committee anytime between now and March 1.
4. Place in the subject line "**In Support of H - 7112**".
4. CC the e-mail to Representative Almeida (rep-almeida@rilin.state.ri.us) and rinasw@aol.com

Thank you for your participation. Watch for other Student Coalition opportunities that will arise during this legislative session. You may monitor all of NASW - RI sponsored Student Coalitions and follow the progressive NASW - RI legislative agenda, including testimonies and policy statements, at www.rinasw.info. Specific questions may be directed to rinasw@aol.com. You will receive an answer from one of the Coalition Leaders - Cassandra, Megan, or Gabrielle.