

Call Off Your Old  
Tired Ethics



### **COYOTE's Suggested Policy Recommendations For the Study Commission**

1. The prostitution, procurement, loitering, soliciting from a motor vehicle, and massaging without a license laws should be removed entirely. Removing the first four laws would allow the massaging without a license laws to remain on the books without unduly affecting sex workers, who would be able to advertise openly.
2. The pandering law should be removed entirely.
3. Rhode Island's state trafficking of a minor law could be brought in line with federal law by adding a "reckless disregard" clause, it could be amended to include an exception for charging 18-19 year olds who are also engaging in sex work and not abusive, or be entirely eliminated as the federal law is sufficient and the state law is redundant.
4. Pass an immunity bill that includes protection for massage workers and immunity in reporting crimes against a person but not moral crimes like prostitution.
5. Expand Rhode Island's sexual assault statute to make it clear that sexual penetration or sexual contact as an investigative tactic is not okay and is criminal behavior. This can be accomplished by:
  - a. adding the following as (5) to § 11-37-2. First degree sexual assault and (4) to § 11-37-4. Second degree sexual assault: The accused is or claims to be a peace officer in the state of Rhode Island and investigates, detains, or arrests the victim for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or stimulation.
  - b. Adding people under investigations to the protections in, and passing [S2233](#) & [H6637](#).
6. Rhode Island's police departments and state police should not work with ICE officials in prostitution enforcement as ICE involvement is highly correlated with an increase in the targeting and deportation of Asian workers.
7. Rhode Island police and prosecutors should be instructed to prioritize cases where force, fraud, or coercion are used against minors, and to treat their non-abusive peers respectfully as valuable potential witnesses and reporters.
8. Rhode Island police and prosecutors should be instructed to consistently monitor group home staff and prioritize the investigation and prosecution of abusive group home staff or foster parents. Youth should find state care to be safer than and preferable to the sex industry.
9. The Rhode Island legislature should work to understand and address the problem of youth in state care running away from group and foster homes to engage in sex work. While it does seem that several cases in Rhode Island were related to the violent pimp who was employed as a group home supervisor, several were not. This issue is common across the country (see Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking by Alexandria Lutnick) and there are several innovative and even cost saving strategies being used to address these

conditions, including rapid re housing, host home programs for LGBT youth, and LGBT specific youth homes. The legislature should commission a community based, participant driven research paper with recommendations to be conducted with recent Rhode Island group home graduates.

10. Rhode Island sex workers and sex trafficking survivors should be at the forefront of Rhode Island's discussions and research around prostitution and sex trafficking. Any discussion of policy regulating the sex industry must include COYOTE RI.