

Emily Daniels
Adult Probation & Parole Officer II
Rhode Island Department of Corrections
49 Pavilion Avenue
Providence, RI 02905

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Christopher O'Brien
Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative O'Brien,

My name is Emily Daniels. I have worked as a Probation Officer with the Rhode Island Department of Corrections since 2007. I take a great amount of pride in my position and am privileged to have spent 17 of the last 18 years serving the city of Providence. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 5765 to add Probation and Parole Officers to the list of public safety professionals for the purpose of retirement and service allowance. To be included in the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) would ensure that the work done by Probation & Parole Officers is recognized for the daily contributions made community safety.

Rhode Island Probation and Parole Officers have a unique role in the state. We are tasked with assisting offenders in their rehabilitation while monitoring compliance with court ordered conditions of release. Probation and Parole Officers promote positive changes in behavior to enhance rehabilitative change to reduce recidivism, victimization, and community harm. We must take into consideration the offender's potential to change and the offender's potential to harm. A constant calculation of the cost benefit to our communities. The Probation & Parole Department falls under the Department of Corrections. While under the umbrella of the Department of Corrections and Community Corrections we are not recognized as public safety along with Correctional Officers even though we monitor the same offenders. As of December 31, 2023, there are 25 individuals serving life without parole in RIDOC facilities. This means that all other offenders will be released to the community to be supervised by Probation and Parole Officers where we monitor these offenders in the community without the assistance of them being confined to the correctional institution.

As with other law enforcement and public safety professionals these demands take a toll on Probation & Parole Officers and over time the cumulative impact can lead to increased rates of injury, burnout, mental health issues, and long-term health issues.

House Bill 5765 would provide long-needed recognition of these challenges and align our retirement benefits with other public safety professionals, such as law enforcement and correctional officers, who are rightfully acknowledged for the similar demands of their roles.

I urge you to support House Bill 5765 in recognition of the dedicated men and women who work as Probation and Parole Officers in the State of Rhode Island in the service of public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily J. Daniels". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Emily Daniels

Adult Probation & Parole Officer II

Rhode Island Department of Corrections