

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Jeremy Handley <jah.672@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2025 3:02 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** House Finance Committee Hearing 4/22/2025 Atten: Christopher O'Brien

Good afternoon Mr. O'Brien,

I am writing this email to you because I cannot physically attend the House Finance Committee hearing tomorrow. This email is in regard to House Bill 2025-H5765 which I am in favor of.

I have been a Probation/Parole officer since November of 2017 and have been a State Employee since July of 2004. I currently am supervising a parole caseload for the Parole Unit. Offenders that I supervise range in charges from Murder convictions to Domestic Assaults. My supervision includes conducting home visits with a co-worker. We are unarmed and are only able to wear a bulletproof vest as well as carry a OC spray can but, only if you complete the department's OC spray training. Additionally, we do go out to investigate homes/living arrangements for parolees who are looking to be released out on parole. We are also required to conduct home visits for offenders who are looking for their supervision to be transferred to Rhode Island from another State which we call an Interstate Transfer Investigation. I have also conducted home visits with local and State Police. A priority for Probation/Parole officers is community safety. Part of helping to maintain and minimize risk to the community is being in the community doing home visits and meeting with families. Home visits are crucial to supervision and often provide insight into the individual you are supervising. I understand that the Treasurer is opposed to this change however, the duties that we do every week are risky and we do put our lives at risk. In many States in the country, Parole/Probation Officers carry firearms and have arrest powers, we do not. It would be a shame if the committee waited for an unforeseen tragedy to happen before appreciating the risk in some of the job duties that my co-workers and I perform weekly. I appreciate your efforts in trying to get us recognized.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Handley  
Rhode Island Department of Corrections  
Probation/Parole Officer II  
Parole Unit