

Chris O'Brien

From: Lynne Adams <laa0123@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:48 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: H5765

Representative O'Brien,

I am writing this email in support of bill H5765, relating to Public Officers and Employees.

Probation and Parole Officers play an essential role in maintaining community safety and supporting the reintegration of individuals into society. Their responsibilities—ranging from supervising individuals on conditional release to intervening in high-risk situations—place them on the front lines of our criminal justice system, often under conditions that mirror those faced by law enforcement officers. P&P Officers coordinate with law enforcement to ensure public safety by conducting home visits on a regular basis especially for those high risk offenders with domestic violence and sex offense charges. P&P Officers assist law enforcement with ongoing criminal investigations, supervise offenders who are just entering back into the community after serving lengthy sentences for heinous crimes and file violations to the RI Judiciary for those who are not complying with the terms of their probation which means they are a potential threat to public safety.

Despite this critical role, these professionals have historically been overlooked when it comes to classification, recognition, and access to the same benefits and protections as their counterparts in public safety. This bill is a necessary step toward equity, not only in acknowledging the dangers and challenges they face, but also in reinforcing the importance of their work to the overall safety and well-being of our communities.

By officially recognizing Probation and Parole Officers as public safety personnel, we send a powerful message of support, respect, and appreciation for their service.

I urge you to support this bill and ensure that Probation and Parole Officers receive the recognition and resources they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Lynne Adams
RI Probation Parole Officer