



# RHODE ISLAND BROTHERHOOD OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

*"Representing Those Who Work the Toughest Beat in the State"*

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May 12, 2026

Chairperson Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island

RE: Support for H 8352 – Retiree Healthcare Eligibility for Correctional Officers

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of H 8352, legislation that would allow Correctional Officers with twenty-five (25) years of service who retire at age fifty-five (55) to become eligible for non-Medicare retiree healthcare coverage.

This legislation addresses a longstanding fairness issue affecting Rhode Island Correctional Officers.

Under current law, many state employees become eligible for retiree healthcare coverage at age fifty-nine (59). At the same time, Correctional Officers are recognized under state retirement law as being eligible to retire earlier, after twenty-five years of service at age fifty-five, due to the unique physical, mental, and emotional demands of the profession.

However, while Correctional Officers may retire at age fifty-five, they are often forced to wait four additional years before becoming eligible for retiree medical coverage. H 8352 simply corrects this gap by aligning healthcare eligibility with the retirement structure already established by the State of Rhode Island for correctional professionals.

Correctional Officers work in one of the most difficult and dangerous environments in state government. They are responsible for maintaining institutional security, responding to assaults, preventing violence, handling overdoses, and mental health crises, and protecting both staff and inmates within Rhode Island's correctional system.

The physical and psychological toll of spending decades working inside correctional institutions is substantial. The State itself has acknowledged those realities by allowing retirement eligibility

at age fifty-five. This legislation simply ensures those officers are not left without healthcare coverage during the years between retirement eligibility and medical eligibility.

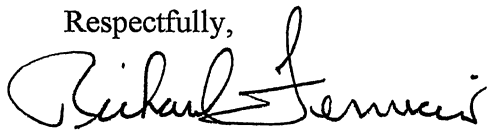
This proposal is not about special treatment. It is about fairness, consistency, recruitment, retention, and recognizing the realities of correctional work.

If Rhode Island expects correctional professionals to dedicate twenty-five years protecting institutional and public safety, the State should ensure those same officers have access to healthcare coverage when they become retirement eligible.

The Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers respectfully urges the Committee to support H 8352.

Thank you for your consideration and continued attention to the men and women serving within the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Ferruccio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Richard Ferruccio  
President  
Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers