



**We Make Rhode Island Happen**

## ***AFSCME Rhode Island Council 94***

*American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO*

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Date: April 1, 2025

Memo To: House Judiciary Committee Members

From: Joe DeLuca, President - Local 314, RI Council 94 AFSCME, AFL-CIO

James A Cenerini, Legislative Affairs/Political Action Coordinator, RI Council 94, AFSCME

RE: H-5650 / S-205 & S-577- CON

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Rhode Island Training School Local 314, AFSCME represents employees at the Thomas C. Slater Training School, Youth Development Center and opposes H-5650 / S-205 & S-577.

H-5650 / S-205 & S-577 would prohibit youth 12years old and under, from being held at the RI Training School (RITS), unless they are charged/convicted of murder or first degree sexual assault.

Local 314 and RI Council 94 oppose H-5650 / S-205 & S-577:

- Youths 12 years old and under are only rarely held at the RITS.
  - Family Court Judges make the determination of whether to hold a juvenile in the training school when it is alleged/determined that these youths have committed a serious crime and/or are repeat offenders in need of a secure setting.
  - This legislation is unnecessary and seeks to address a problem that does not exist.
- The census of the RITS is much lower than in years past.
- Limiting the discretion of Family Court Judiciary is a serious concern as it may adversely impact public safety.
- RITS only youth have better outcomes then Youths sent only to Temporary Community Placements (TCPs).
  - According to 2018 Research Improving People's Lives report to DCYF's JDAI Steering Committee, "It appears that RITS only youth have better observed health, education, enrollment and recidivism outcomes then TCP only." (pg. 21)

RI Council 94, AFSCME-AFL-CIO respectfully requests that the Senate Judiciary Committee members oppose H-5650 / S-205 & S-577.

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