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From: Alex Denisevich <adenisevich@proton.me>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 12:39 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony In Support of H6041

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To The House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in support of House Bill 6041, Bail on 32. This bill would require probation violators be able to be released on their own recognizance. It would allow those on probation who are not convicted of a crime to be released instead of being held at the ACI.

This bill will not only save peoples' lives but will save taxpayers and the state a significant amount of money. Rhode Island has one of the highest probation rates in the country. This means that a lot of Rhode Islanders are on probation. By holding these individuals in the ACI for only being accused of violating their probation, numerous tax dollars are spent to keep them there. This then causes people to lose their jobs, their housing, and their children or families. This compounds on top of the cost necessary to keep these folks incarcerated. When people lose their jobs, they can't pay their bills and need to live off government assistance or resort to other means which oftentimes lands these people back in jail (if they are released) requiring even more public funds. This excessive spending could easily be avoided by allowing probation violators out on personal recognizance or bail. That way folks could keep their jobs so they are able to keep paying their rent and feeding their children and families.

Probation law in Rhode Island is incredibly vague. A person can be considered in violation of their probation for as little as "failure to keep the peace." What does that even mean?! What this means is that a cop can make it mean whatever they want it to mean. So if an officer is having a bad day or has a personal vendetta they can arrest any Rhode Islander for this "failure" even if it was because they were just unlucky enough to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. This is not justice.

This bill does not mean that we are letting murderers and rapists go free. The bail system stays in place. All this bill does is require judges to not automatically hold someone for a probation violation. This is literally what the legislature is for, to make the laws that judges execute in court. The excuse that you don't want to tell judges how to rule is lazy and ridiculous.

Please support H6041. It will help so many Rhode Islanders that are just trying to start over and live their lives after serving their time.

Thank you.

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