



RHODE ISLAND BROTHERHOOD OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

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

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April 3, 2025

Honorable Members
Rhode Island House Judiciary

Dear Representative:

I am writing to express the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers opposition for bill H-5180, this bill would mandate one member be a formerly incarcerated inmate.

The Rhode Island Parole Board is responsible for reviewing prisoner parole eligibility and is composed of individuals appointed by the governor with backgrounds in member of law enforcement, psychiatrist/psychologist, experience in social work/corrections, an attorney in good standing, and other professionals with expertise in the criminal justice system.

To mandate a former offender to the board promotes the opinion of a more "liberal" parole board potentially leading to more lenient parole decisions compared current parole board.

In 2022, the Rhode Island Parole Board granted parole to 31% of applications, with 171 parole hearings granted out of 564 total applications.

It is with these facts in mind that the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Corrections respectfully requests that this committee reject this legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Ferruccio

President, RIBCO