



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 24, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
82 Smith Street, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H8117: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government-- Corrections Department

Dear Representative McEntee:

I write to you in support of H8117: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government-- Corrections Department. This bill repeals 42-56-38.1 and requires the department of corrections to provide free communication services to inmates and juveniles held in residential placement or detention centers and requires that those facilities provide in-person contact visits.

According to one study, in Rhode Island phone calls can cost up to .44 cents for one 15-minute session, and up to 5 dollars for a 20-minute video call. This positions Rhode Island as one of the most expensive states in the region for prison phone calls. Furthermore, while .44 cents may seem like a small amount of money, people incarcerated in Rhode Island make a substantially smaller minimum wage, meaning that something as vital as a phone call, allowing inmates to speak with counsel or family, prohibitively expensive.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor
CC: Rep. Leonela Felix