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From: Brandon Robinson <brobinson@opendoorsri.org>
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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support Letter for H-7079

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Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brandon Robinson, and I am a resident of Providence, Rhode Island. I write in support of House Bill H-7079, sponsored by Representative Craven and co-sponsored by Representatives Biah, Cortvriend, Shanley, and O'Brien.

This bill is an important step toward recognizing that people can grow, change, and contribute meaningfully to their communities after past mistakes. By allowing individuals with multiple convictions to petition for expungement, this legislation creates a pathway for those who have demonstrated rehabilitation to move forward.

A criminal record often creates lifelong barriers to employment, housing, and education—barriers that extend punishment far beyond what was originally imposed. Through my work in community advocacy, reentry, and systems change, I have seen firsthand how these barriers limit opportunity, destabilize families, and weaken communities. When people are unable to access jobs or stable housing, it not only impacts them—it impacts public safety, economic mobility, and overall community well-being.

This bill strikes a thoughtful balance by allowing courts to evaluate good moral character and evidence of rehabilitation. It does not offer automatic relief—it offers a fair opportunity. That distinction matters. It ensures accountability while also creating a pathway for redemption.

From my perspective, this legislation is about both justice and effectiveness. If we are serious about rehabilitation, workforce development, and reducing recidivism, we must remove unnecessary barriers that prevent people from fully reintegrating into society. Policies like H-7079 strengthen our workforce, support families, and promote safer, more stable communities.

I respectfully urge your support for House Bill H-7079.

Sincerely,
Brandon Robinson
Providence, RI

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