

Ariana Costa

From: Dawn Trimble <dawntrimble77@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 7:36 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; rep-cruz@rilegislature.gov; rep-craven@rilegislature.gov; Rep. Biah, Nathan W.; Rep. Shanley, Evan P.; rep-obrien@rilegislature.gov; rep-cortvriend@rilegislature.gov; rep-mcentee@rilegislature.gov
Subject: OPPOSITION bill H 7079 2026

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Dear Honored Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing regarding House Bill H 7079 (2026). While I strongly support efforts to expand and improve access to expungement in Rhode Island, I must respectfully oppose this bill in its current form due to its carve-outs, particularly those related to DUI offenses resulting in death.

More than 20 years ago, I made a mistake that resulted in a felony conviction. I was sentenced to 15 years in prison with 10 to serve. I served 6 years in prison, followed by 9 years on probation. I am currently 4 years into the existing 10-year waiting period required before I can apply for expungement under current law.

Since my release in 2013, I have had no further involvement with the criminal justice system. I have worked hard to rebuild my life and demonstrate that I am not the person I was decades ago. Today, I am a productive member of society: I am employed, I pay taxes, I own a home, I serve on boards, and I am an active member of my community. I am a neighbor and a friend, and someone who has shown long-term rehabilitation.

I have also given back to the community by supporting others on the same path. Through my work with the Formerly Incarcerated Union of Rhode Island and involvement with Reentry Campus Program, I have helped formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate, find stability, and become productive members of society. I believe deeply in accountability, but also in second chances.

However, under H 7079 as written, individuals like me would be excluded from relief for an additional 5 years due to the nature of our offenses. This effectively extends the waiting period to 15 years, regardless of the decades of lawful behavior and personal growth that follow.

I fully acknowledge the seriousness of my past actions and the harm they caused. I do not seek to diminish that in any way. However, I believe that expungement policy should also recognize rehabilitation, accountability, and the ability of people to change over time.

Extending the waiting period in this way does not enhance public safety. Instead, it continues to impose barriers on individuals who have already demonstrated, over many years, that they are capable of contributing positively to society. In my case, the presence of this conviction has already forced me to

leave my field in cybersecurity and fraud prevention due to background check restrictions, limiting my ability to fully utilize my skills and support myself.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the carve-outs in H 7079 and to ensure that any expungement reform truly expands opportunity rather than creating new exclusions. A fair system should allow for second chances based not only on the offense, but on the life a person has built since.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you vote no on H 7079 unless it is amended to remove or revise these exclusions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dawn Trimble
West Warwick, Rhode Island