



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7079

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-7079, sponsored by Representative Craven and co-sponsored by Representatives Biah, Cortvriend, Shanley, and O'Brien.

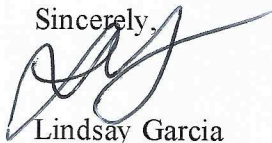
This bill is an important step toward recognizing that people can grow, change, and contribute meaningfully to their communities after past mistakes. By allowing individuals with multiple convictions to petition for expungement, this legislation creates a pathway for those who have demonstrated rehabilitation to move forward. A criminal record often creates lifelong barriers to employment, housing, and education. This bill allows the court to consider whether an individual has demonstrated good moral character, ensuring that relief is granted thoughtfully and responsibly.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H7079 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director



Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7204

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-7204, sponsored by Representatives J. Lombardi, Hull, Cruz, Potter, J. Brien, Stewart, Kislak, Diaz, McEntee, and Alzate.

This bill recognizes that after a decade of law-abiding behavior, individuals deserve a meaningful opportunity to move beyond their past. Allowing expungement of multiple non-violent felony convictions after 10 years provides a fair and reasonable timeline for rehabilitation. This reform strengthens public safety by encouraging stability—people who can access employment and housing are far less likely to reoffend.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H7204 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7281

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-7281, sponsored by Representatives Cruz, J. Brien, Potter, Stewart, Kislak, Place, McEntee, Sanchez, Shanley, and Craven.

Reducing waiting periods for expungement to 3 years for misdemeanors and 5 years for felonies reflects a more realistic understanding of rehabilitation. Long waiting periods unnecessarily delay opportunities for individuals who have already demonstrated change. This bill removes barriers earlier, allowing people to contribute to the workforce and their communities without prolonged punishment.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H7281 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7508

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of H7508, the Rhode Island Clean Slate Act sponsored by Representatives Casimiro, Fogarty, McGaw, Tanzi, Boylan, Cortvriend, Kislak, J. Lombardi, Alzate, and Stewart. This legislation is not about erasing the past; it's about ensuring people who have completed their sentence and remained crime-free are not permanently held back by it.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Clean Slate policies like H7508 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7651

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-7651, sponsored by Representatives Batista, Cruz, Potter, Alzate, Felix, J. Lombardi, Morales, Stewart, and Shanley.

This bill promotes fairness in the justice system by requiring courts to presume release for most probation violations and to limit detention to cases involving risk or danger. Too often, individuals are detained for technical violations rather than new offenses, disrupting employment, family stability, and progress toward rehabilitation. By emphasizing proportionality, timely hearings, and clear reasoning, this bill strengthens both fairness and accountability.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H7651 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7205

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-7205, sponsored by Representatives Casimiro, Shallcross Smith, Alzate, Stewart, Craven, McEntee, Giraldo, Donovan, Spears, and Sanchez.

This bill creates a pathway for individuals serving sentences to petition for reconsideration. It acknowledges that people grow and change over time and that our justice system should allow for review when appropriate. This is about ensuring that sentences remain fair, proportional, and responsive to rehabilitation—not eliminating accountability.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H7205 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7820

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-7820, sponsored by Representative Lima.

This bill provides an opportunity for individuals with convictions from over 40 years ago to clear their records. At that point, individuals have demonstrated decades of living beyond their past. Continuing to carry a record after such a long period serves little public safety purpose and instead prolongs unnecessary barriers.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H7820 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H8083

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-8083, sponsored by Representatives Cruz, Handy, Ajello, Stewart, Batista, Sanchez, Morales, Casimiro, and Potter.

This bill provides a clearer pathway for expungement of multiple non-violent felony convictions 10 years from the date of conviction. It promotes fairness, consistency, and meaningful second chances.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H8083 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H8084

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-8084, sponsored by Representatives Cruz, Handy, Ajello, Stewart, Batista, Morales, Casimiro, and Potter.

This bill allows individuals convicted of simple possession to clear their records after three years—a commonsense reform addressing low-level offenses. Removing these barriers improves access to employment and stability.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H8084 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H8085

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-8085, sponsored by Representatives Cruz, Handy, Ajello, Stewart, Batista, Sanchez, Casimiro, and Potter.

This bill allows expungement of petty misdemeanors after one year, ensuring minor offenses do not create long-term barriers. This is a practical and fair reform that supports reintegration.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H8085 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>



April 2, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair

House Judiciary

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

RE: H8275

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H-8275, sponsored by Representatives Felix, Potter, Cruz, Batista, Sanchez, Kazarian, Kislak, Stewart, Alzate, and Handy.

This bill establishes oversight of restrictive housing, including solitary confinement. Transparency and accountability are essential to ensure these practices are used appropriately and humanely. Oversight helps protect both safety and human dignity within correctional systems.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) is a non-profit dedicated to advancing addiction recovery in Rhode Island through advocacy, community engagement, and service. For many Rhode Islanders in recovery, the path forward does not end when a person stops using substances or completes treatment. Recovery is a life-long process that requires stability, opportunity, and connection. Policies that remove unnecessary barriers help people build what we call recovery capital – the internal and external resources that support sustained recovery. Recovery capital can include safe housing, employment opportunities, supportive relationships, education, and access to recovery services. Unfortunately, a criminal record often blocks access to many of these essential resources, even long after a person has turned their life around. Barriers to housing, employment, and education can keep members of our community trapped in cycles of instability that make recovery more difficult to attain.

Policies like H8275 do more than correct inequity; they strengthen communities, strengthen long-term recovery outcomes, and help individuals avoid future involvement with the justice system. A past mistake does not have to permanently limit a person's ability to build a healthy, productive life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of Advocacy

166 Valley Street, Ste 105, Providence, RI 02909

office: (401) 475-2960 web: <https://ricares.org>