



## The RI **FREEDOM** Collective

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL HB7134 RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE-THE RHODE ISLAND FIRST STEP ACT

March 30, 2026

Dear Chairperson McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Freedom Collective we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support for HB7134 currently under consideration before the House Judiciary Committee.

We believe that this legislation is important. The Department of Corrections has a fundamental responsibility to support the successful reintegration of people returning to the community, because rehabilitation—not perpetual punishment—is what ultimately promotes public safety and human dignity. Providing access to counseling, medical and mental-health care, education, and reentry planning equips individuals with the stability and skills they need to rebuild their lives and avoid returning to the system. Offering pathways such as early sentence termination or pre-release confinement for elderly and terminally ill individuals reflects both fiscal responsibility and basic compassion, recognizing that continued incarceration often serves no meaningful public purpose.

When the DOC invests in people's well-being and future, it strengthens families, reduces recidivism, and helps create safer, healthier communities for everyone. privacy protections and community safety. For these reasons we respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HB7134.

Thank you for your time, your public service, and your thoughtful consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

*Mario Monteiro*

*Steven Parkhurst*

*Kyle Campbell*