



The RI **FREEDOM** Collective

RELATED TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - SENTENCING RECONSIDERATION ACT

IN SUPPORT OF H7205

March 30, 2026

Dear Chairperson McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As of the most recent nationwide assessments, 25 U.S. states have enacted a sentencing reconsideration law – often called “second look” or sentence review laws – that allow courts to revisit and potentially reduce long prison sentences after a person has served a substantial period of time.

These laws are passing across the country because states are finally acknowledging what the data has shown for years: we are keeping people incarcerated far beyond any public-safety benefit, at enormous cost to taxpayers by keeping aging and low risk people behind bars and under sentencing standards that no longer reflect today’s values or today’s laws.

A Second Look process gives judges – not parole boards, not politicians, but judges, the ability to correct sentences that become excessive or outdated. This is NOT automatic release; it is responsible governance. It recognizes rehabilitation, it protects public safety, and it ensures our justice can correct itself when it overshoots.

Rhode Island deserves a system that is fair, fiscally sound, and rooted in evidence-not inertia. Rhode Island should not be the last state to acknowledge that people grow, circumstances change, and justice must be capable of correcting itself.

For these reasons we respectfully urge you to move this bill to the floor for a vote.

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

Sincerely,

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