



RHODE ISLAND BROTHERHOOD OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

"Representing Those Who Work the Toughest Beat in the State"

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April 2, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to express serious concerns regarding H 8074, the proposed legislation establishing a Commission on Pardons.

While the concept of a structured process for pardon recommendations may merit discussion, the current composition of the proposed commission is fundamentally unbalanced and raises significant concerns regarding fairness, public confidence, and public safety.

As currently drafted, the commission includes representatives from multiple reentry and advocacy organizations, as well as members from the judicial branch, attorney general's office, public defender, and probation/parole. However, it notably excludes any required representation for crime victims, victims' advocacy organizations, law enforcement, or correctional/public safety professionals.

This omission is deeply troubling.

A commission tasked with reviewing petitions for executive pardons must include a balanced range of perspectives, particularly those representing the interests of victims and the safety of the public.

Victims and their families deserve to have their voices considered in any process that may ultimately erase or mitigate the legal consequences of a criminal conviction. Likewise, law enforcement and correctional professionals possess direct experience with offender conduct, institutional behavior, patterns of recidivism, and the real-world public safety implications of these decisions.

Without these voices, the commission risks becoming heavily weighted toward offender advocacy and reentry interests while excluding those most directly impacted by crime and those charged with protecting the public.

This imbalance undermines confidence in the fairness and legitimacy of the process.

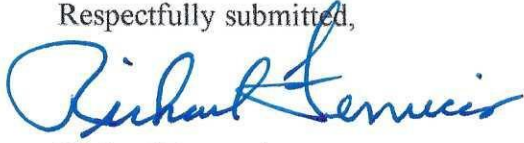
At a minimum, the legislation should be amended to include:

- a victim advocate or victims' rights representative
- a law enforcement or correctional/public safety representative

Absent these changes, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose H 8074.

A pardon process must be balanced, transparent, and trusted by the public. The current bill, as drafted, fails to meet that standard.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Ferruccio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Richard Ferruccio

President

Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers