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From: Daniel Chin <dj.chin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2026 10:18 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: HB 7647 Opposition

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Esteemed Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I strongly oppose House Bill 7647. This legislation expands access to juvenile records for firearm background checks, undermining the very purpose of the juvenile justice system. The bill explicitly allows disclosure of juvenile records “in conducting a NICS firearm background check” (H 7647, §14-1-64(c)), even though juvenile records are supposed to be sealed, protected, and treated differently from adult criminal records.

The entire point of the juvenile system is rehabilitation — not lifelong punishment. H 7647 chips away at that principle by turning sealed juvenile records into permanent barriers for adults seeking to exercise a constitutional right. If the state declares juvenile records confidential and sealed, it should not selectively unseal them only to restrict a civil liberty.

This bill does not enhance public safety. It simply expands government access to records that were never meant to follow individuals into adulthood. Rhode Island should not be in the business of turning childhood mistakes into permanent, adult-life disqualifications.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject H 7647.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daniel Chin
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