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9 April 2026

Chairman Hagan McEntee
House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02906

Chairman McEntee and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subj: H-8055

I wish to state my overwhelming support for H-8055.

Please refer to attached Testimony.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at home: 401-996-4985 or via e-mail: agpalazzo@gmail.com.

Your time and effort in support of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very respectfully,

A.G. Palazzo
CDR USN (Ret)

Cc: Members of the House Cmte on Judiciary

HCJ Testimony 9 April 26

Chairman McEntee and Members of this Cmte, I am testifying in support of this Bill from personal experience over a period of 52 years.....

I need to note that Ms. Garcia was a student of mine at Pilgrim High School when she was the subject of an unprovoked and senseless attack back on March 3rd, 2017, while working at a local Rite Aid. The specifics of that attack are well documented and available to you, but I wanted to lend a personal aspect to her ordeal.

Alyssa could be described as a typical American teenager—she was outgoing, bubbly, and well regarded within the Pilgrim community. News of the attack left us devastated and distraught. How could this have happened?

The physical and emotional scars of that attack have permanently affected this young woman, and I recall that when she returned to Pilgrim, her personality had changed. She was welcomed by her teachers and peers, but this experience had forever changed her.

And that change is what brought me here today. Why had this happened? Why should any young American be subject to such horrific events and suffer such emotional and psychological trauma?

The second incident dates to November 1974, when I was chosen to be a Juror for a Murder trial, quite a serious responsibility for a 22-Year-old senior at URI. I took my responsibility very seriously and in the spirit of “Twelve Angry Men” I was determined to see that Justice fairly carried out for both the victim and the defendant. After a month-long trial, I was confident that the Jury had carried out its duty to the citizens of the State.

Fast forward to 2007, it was at time that the Defendant in the earlier case I’ve cited, Freddie Bishop, was once again brought to trial for murder. Within a year of being paroled, he broke into a home in Warwick. shot 3 people, killing one, a completely innocent victim. Why had he been paroled when he had been sentenced to life?