



4/9/26

TESTIMONY HOUSE JUDICIARY H8055 SUPPORT FROM ALLIANCE FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES ...

Alliance for Safe Communities requests House Judiciary to move for passage of H8055.

Assault with intent to murder is quite simply the deliberate, intended, violent assault and attack upon a victim.

Currently assault with intent 11-5-1 allows that the criminal acts in a way that they don't have to be responsible for their behavior's intent. The criminal took every action necessary to complete the crime. The glaring reality that the attempt failed to end the victim's life should not warrant the reward of a lesser maximum sentencing for the crime.

H8055 recognizes intent to murder as distinct. It is not about expanding punishment broadly, it is about aligning accountability with survivors' lifelong consequences physically, emotionally, psychologically, and financially, while also addressing the cost shifted onto communities.

This amendment will not impact the ability for incarcerated individuals of assault with intent to murder to have access to programs within the prison for rehabilitation, educational, industrial, vocational, and behavioral purposes. In fact, these programs are not often readily available to those not incarcerated yet and at risk while seeking help in society.

Today you will hear testimony from Alyssa Garcia whose survival from an attempt to end her life from a brutal stabbing is nothing short of miraculous.

Her case is highlighted on Alliance website page: <https://www.asc-ri.org/2026-when-assault-w-intent-to-murder-becomes-real/>

Andrea Willmont's case, also a survivor of a brutal attack of a knifing from a stalker, is also highlighted on this page.

It is the hope of Alliance that victims like Andrea Wilmont who are too terrified to come to committee, and publicly address her assailant, will be assured more accountability of sentencing in the future.

To quote Andrea who was the victim of a brutal stabbing more than 20X in her back, neck, arms, and head in 2011 by her stalker, “I once felt stronger and somewhat empowered knowing he was incarcerated, in a place, where he was unable to seek revenge”. She stated, “now he holds all the power I had slowly gained back when moving forward, and that now, I feel powerless”.

In the case of Emma now living in witness protection and living out of state, testimony in Rhode Island is not feasible. Emma’s testimony can also be found on our website page : <https://www.asc-ri.org/2026-when-assault-w-intent-to-murder-becomes-real/>

Alliance website highlights the rise of violent assaults in Rhode Island 2025-2026 where criminals are charged with lesser multiple felonies than “assault with intent to murder”. These assaults where hammers, axes, guns, and even a motor vehicle incurred serious life time harm to others, were still not charged with “assault with intent to murder events” when the intent was blatantly obvious.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding H8055 today.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Medeiros, Executive Director Alliance for Safe Communities