

Representatives of the Rhode Island Judiciary Committee,

The proposed amendment to R.I. General Laws in chapter 11-5 'assaults' House bill 2026-H8055 that would increase the sentencing for those convicted of attempted murder is necessary.

I did not know Alyssa in March of 2017. I met her in the Summer of 2022, after I had asked her on a first date. I was unaware of the events that transpired 5 years prior, but I did notice something different about her. She had scars up and down her arms, and on her torso. As we walked through the Roger Williams Park Zoo enjoying each other's company, I reached out to hold her left hand, she pulled away, alerting me that she has no feeling in that arm. A shift happened then, as she proceeded to explain to me why she was covered in scars, and could not use her left hand. The conversation is not one we have often, as to alleviate the everyday struggle that she lives with both physically and mentally.

After almost a decade, she still feels uncomfortable in public spaces, and is triggered by strangers who resemble Mr. Gallant, the man that attacked her. She lives with a persistent pain all over her body that is like an insatiable "itch you can't scratch." Everyday she looks in the mirror, she is reminded about how her innocence and perspective of the world was ruined before her life even started. Try explaining to a child where you got all your scars from, and why you can't use your body parts. "I was in an accident" can only get you so far with a curious mind. Mr. Gallant was eligible for parole in the Fall of 2025. As Gen law 11-5 regarding assaults stands now, he could have already been returned to the public, a person who admitted "I just wanted to kill someone."

With a mind and body that will never fully be healed, Alyssa had to plead her case to the parole board to keep this man in the prison system. In another 4 years, when he is eligible for parole, she will have to face her demons and relive those events again. This is something that she has to be prepared for, in years to come.

I put this law in perspective. You are a student in the public school system for at least 12 years of your life. Only then, after meeting the standards set by the school board, you get a certificate certifying "you've received enough education to be a positive product of society." We give a child 12 years before they are "prepared" for the real world. A person can attack someone with the intent to end their life, and our judicial system believes said individual can be rehabbed and released into the public after just one year.

The proposed increase to a minimum 10 year sentence, not to exceed 40 years is a more than reasonable price to pay for putting someone in a position where they are compromised for the rest of their life.

Thank you

Jacob McNamara