

Ariana Costa

From: Kimberly Garcia <kimz2669@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 7:20 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: In Support of Amendment to R.I. Gen. Laws §11-5-1; House Bill 2026-H--8055

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Good evening Members of the House Judiciary Committee, My name is Kimberly Garcia, and I am the mother of Alyssa Garcia.

On March 5, 2017, I received the call no parent should ever receive — that my daughter had been stabbed and was being rushed to Rhode Island Hospital.

I sat in the waiting room for hours and hours unaware of my daughter's status.

When the head trauma surgeon was finally able to present, he informed me that my daughter had experienced a brutal attack and he stopped counting the stab wounds after 27. He explained to me that there was significant blood loss requiring multiple transfusions, unrepairable nerve damage as her arm was nearly severed, and tremendous damage to her abdomen as she was disemboweled. I wish I could put into words how it feels for a mother to hear this. All these years later, I still struggle with it.

When I finally got to see my daughter she was lying in a hospital bed in the ICU, her eyes closed, stab wounds held together by staples and bandaging from head to toe, a tube down her throat, and dried blood covering many parts of her body.

She endured multiple surgeries, a year of open wounds, years of rehabilitation, permanent nerve damage, and the loss of her left hand's function. She lost her senior year of high school. She lost her sense of independence. She lost the simple ability to move through the world without fear.

And our family changed forever.

Even now, eight years later, when we hear sirens — police cars or ambulances — our bodies react instantly. We text each other every single time.

“Is everyone okay?”

“Where are you?”

That trauma never left us. It lives in our nervous systems.

Every parole hearing reopens those wounds. I must relive what happened to my child. I must listen to descriptions of her injuries. I must sit in the trauma again.

A person admitted he intended to kill the first person he saw. The only reason my daughter is not a homicide victim is because she survived.

Intent matters.

Please support this amendment so families like mine are not forced to relive attempted murder over and over for decades. Give survivors stability. Give families a chance to heal.

Thank you for your time,

Kimberly Garcia