

From: Ligion52@gmail.com via fastdemocracy.com <anatolij@fastdemocracy.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:43 PM

To: Rep. Casimiro, Julie A. <rep-casimiro@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: Support for H 7132, Prohibiting the use of Life Without Parole When Sentencing Emerging Adults

Dear Representative Casimiro,

I am a Rhode Island resident with personal experience with the criminal legal system. I submit this letter as testimony in support of house Bill 7132, which would prohibit the use of life without parole (LWOP) when sentencing individuals under the age of 22.

Banning life without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders recognizes what science and experience have made clear: young people are fundamentally different from fully mature adults. Brain development, especially in decision-making, continues well into the mid-20s. Sentencing individuals to die in prison for actions committed during this developmental stage ignores their potential for growth, change, and rehabilitation. A justice system should hold individuals accountable and inspire hope for redemption. I am a testament to this possibility.

Growing up in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan, I was far from ideal and made many poor decisions that affected my future. In 1964, I ended up incarcerated at the House of Correction Institute in Chicago, Illinois, where I was sentenced to two years for two counts of aggravated assault. Most people saw me as a hopeless case.

During my thirteenth month of incarceration, I dedicated my life to Christ, and that decision changed everything for me. Since then, I have earned a bachelor's degree in social work and worked for seven years as a full-time chaplain at the Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi. For the past 30 years, I have also served as a volunteer chaplain at the maximum-security Adult Correctional Institute in Cranston, Rhode Island.

I have dedicated my entire career to helping people understand that life has meaning. For the past 61 years, I have been preaching the gospel and have been the pastor of Beacon Avenue Church of God in Providence, Rhode Island, since 1995. God gave me a second chance, and I believe that everyone deserves one.

Therefore, I understand that eliminating life sentences without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders does not guarantee automatic release; it simply provides an opportunity for them to demonstrate personal growth and accountability. Many individuals who committed serious offenses as youth later transform their lives, make positive contributions to their communities, and mentor others to avoid violence, as I have done.

A system that allows for second chances, based on careful review, reflects both public safety and the belief that people are more than their worst actions.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony. I hope it will assist in your deliberations, and ultimately help you to support and approve this bill.

Sincerely,
James Turnipseed

30 Sorrell Rd, North Providence, RI, 02904 (401) 632 – 5381 Ligion52@gmail.com

From: Ligion52@gmail.com via fastdemocracy.com <anatolij@fastdemocracy.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:43 PM

To: Rep. Casimiro, Julie A. <rep-casimiro@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: Support for H 7132, Prohibiting the use of Life Without Parole When Sentencing Emerging Adults

Dear Representative Casimiro,

I am a Rhode Island resident with personal experience with the criminal legal system. I submit this letter as testimony in support of house Bill 7132, which would prohibit the use of life without parole (LWOP) when sentencing individuals under the age of 22.

Banning life without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders recognizes what science and experience have made clear: young people are fundamentally different from fully mature adults. Brain development, especially in decision-making, continues well into the mid-20s. Sentencing individuals to die in prison for actions committed during this developmental stage ignores their potential for growth, change, and rehabilitation. A justice system should hold individuals accountable and inspire hope for redemption. I am a testament to this possibility.

Growing up in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan, I was far from ideal and made many poor decisions that affected my future. In 1964, I ended up incarcerated at the House of Correction Institute in Chicago, Illinois, where I was sentenced to two years for two counts of aggravated assault. Most people saw me as a hopeless case.

During my thirteenth month of incarceration, I dedicated my life to Christ, and that decision changed everything for me. Since then, I have earned a bachelor's degree in social work and worked for seven years as a full-time chaplain at the Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi. For the past 30 years, I have also served as a volunteer chaplain at the maximum-security Adult Correctional Institute in Cranston, Rhode Island.

I have dedicated my entire career to helping people understand that life has meaning. For the past 61 years, I have been preaching the gospel and have been the pastor of Beacon Avenue Church of God in Providence, Rhode Island, since 1995. God gave me a second chance, and I believe that everyone deserves one.

Therefore, I understand that eliminating life sentences without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders does not guarantee automatic release; it simply provides an opportunity for them to demonstrate personal growth and accountability. Many individuals who committed serious offenses as youth later transform their lives, make positive contributions to their communities, and mentor others to avoid violence, as I have done.

A system that allows for second chances, based on careful review, reflects both public safety and the belief that people are more than their worst actions.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony. I hope it will assist in your deliberations, and ultimately help you to support and approve this bill.

Sincerely,
James Turnipseed

30 Sorrell Rd, North Providence, RI, 02904 (401) 632 – 5381 Ligion52@gmail.com

From: Ligion52@gmail.com via fastdemocracy.com <anatolij@fastdemocracy.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:43 PM

To: Rep. Casimiro, Julie A. <rep-casimiro@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: Support for H 7132, Prohibiting the use of Life Without Parole When Sentencing Emerging Adults

Dear Representative Casimiro,

I am a Rhode Island resident with personal experience with the criminal legal system. I submit this letter as testimony in support of house Bill 7132, which would prohibit the use of life without parole (LWOP) when sentencing individuals under the age of 22.

Banning life without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders recognizes what science and experience have made clear: young people are fundamentally different from fully mature adults. Brain development, especially in decision-making, continues well into the mid-20s. Sentencing individuals to die in prison for actions committed during this developmental stage ignores their potential for growth, change, and rehabilitation. A justice system should hold individuals accountable and inspire hope for redemption. I am a testament to this possibility.

Growing up in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan, I was far from ideal and made many poor decisions that affected my future. In 1964, I ended up incarcerated at the House of Correction Institute in Chicago, Illinois, where I was sentenced to two years for two counts of aggravated assault. Most people saw me as a hopeless case.

During my thirteenth month of incarceration, I dedicated my life to Christ, and that decision changed everything for me. Since then, I have earned a bachelor's degree in social work and worked for seven years as a full-time chaplain at the Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi. For the past 30 years, I have also served as a volunteer chaplain at the maximum-security Adult Correctional Institute in Cranston, Rhode Island.

I have dedicated my entire career to helping people understand that life has meaning. For the past 61 years, I have been preaching the gospel and have been the pastor of Beacon Avenue Church of God in Providence, Rhode Island, since 1995. God gave me a second chance, and I believe that everyone deserves one.

Therefore, I understand that eliminating life sentences without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders does not guarantee automatic release; it simply provides an opportunity for them to demonstrate personal growth and accountability. Many individuals who committed serious offenses as youth later transform their lives, make positive contributions to their communities, and mentor others to avoid violence, as I have done.

A system that allows for second chances, based on careful review, reflects both public safety and the belief that people are more than their worst actions.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony. I hope it will assist in your deliberations, and ultimately help you to support and approve this bill.

Sincerely,
James Turnipseed

30 Sorrell Rd, North Providence, RI, 02904 (401) 632 – 5381 Ligion52@gmail.com

From: Ligion52@gmail.com via fastdemocracy.com <anatolij@fastdemocracy.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:43 PM

To: Rep. Casimiro, Julie A. <rep-casimiro@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: Support for H 7132, Prohibiting the use of Life Without Parole When Sentencing Emerging Adults

Dear Representative Casimiro,

I am a Rhode Island resident with personal experience with the criminal legal system. I submit this letter as testimony in support of house Bill 7132, which would prohibit the use of life without parole (LWOP) when sentencing individuals under the age of 22.

Banning life without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders recognizes what science and experience have made clear: young people are fundamentally different from fully mature adults. Brain development, especially in decision-making, continues well into the mid-20s. Sentencing individuals to die in prison for actions committed during this developmental stage ignores their potential for growth, change, and rehabilitation. A justice system should hold individuals accountable and inspire hope for redemption. I am a testament to this possibility.

Growing up in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan, I was far from ideal and made many poor decisions that affected my future. In 1964, I ended up incarcerated at the House of Correction Institute in Chicago, Illinois, where I was sentenced to two years for two counts of aggravated assault. Most people saw me as a hopeless case.

During my thirteenth month of incarceration, I dedicated my life to Christ, and that decision changed everything for me. Since then, I have earned a bachelor's degree in social work and worked for seven years as a full-time chaplain at the Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi. For the past 30 years, I have also served as a volunteer chaplain at the maximum-security Adult Correctional Institute in Cranston, Rhode Island.

I have dedicated my entire career to helping people understand that life has meaning. For the past 61 years, I have been preaching the gospel and have been the pastor of Beacon Avenue Church of God in Providence, Rhode Island, since 1995. God gave me a second chance, and I believe that everyone deserves one.

Therefore, I understand that eliminating life sentences without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders does not guarantee automatic release; it simply provides an opportunity for them to demonstrate personal growth and accountability. Many individuals who committed serious offenses as youth later transform their lives, make positive contributions to their communities, and mentor others to avoid violence, as I have done.

A system that allows for second chances, based on careful review, reflects both public safety and the belief that people are more than their worst actions.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony. I hope it will assist in your deliberations, and ultimately help you to support and approve this bill.

Sincerely,
James Turnipseed

30 Sorrell Rd, North Providence, RI, 02904 (401) 632 – 5381 Ligion52@gmail.com

From: Ligion52@gmail.com via fastdemocracy.com <anatolij@fastdemocracy.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:43 PM

To: Rep. Casimiro, Julie A. <rep-casimiro@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: Support for H 7132, Prohibiting the use of Life Without Parole When Sentencing Emerging Adults

Dear Representative Casimiro,

I am a Rhode Island resident with personal experience with the criminal legal system. I submit this letter as testimony in support of house Bill 7132, which would prohibit the use of life without parole (LWOP) when sentencing individuals under the age of 22.

Banning life without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders recognizes what science and experience have made clear: young people are fundamentally different from fully mature adults. Brain development, especially in decision-making, continues well into the mid-20s. Sentencing individuals to die in prison for actions committed during this developmental stage ignores their potential for growth, change, and rehabilitation. A justice system should hold individuals accountable and inspire hope for redemption. I am a testament to this possibility.

Growing up in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan, I was far from ideal and made many poor decisions that affected my future. In 1964, I ended up incarcerated at the House of Correction Institute in Chicago, Illinois, where I was sentenced to two years for two counts of aggravated assault. Most people saw me as a hopeless case.

During my thirteenth month of incarceration, I dedicated my life to Christ, and that decision changed everything for me. Since then, I have earned a bachelor's degree in social work and worked for seven years as a full-time chaplain at the Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi. For the past 30 years, I have also served as a volunteer chaplain at the maximum-security Adult Correctional Institute in Cranston, Rhode Island.

I have dedicated my entire career to helping people understand that life has meaning. For the past 61 years, I have been preaching the gospel and have been the pastor of Beacon Avenue Church of God in Providence, Rhode Island, since 1995. God gave me a second chance, and I believe that everyone deserves one.

Therefore, I understand that eliminating life sentences without parole for juvenile and emerging adult offenders does not guarantee automatic release; it simply provides an opportunity for them to demonstrate personal growth and accountability. Many individuals who committed serious offenses as youth later transform their lives, make positive contributions to their communities, and mentor others to avoid violence, as I have done.

A system that allows for second chances, based on careful review, reflects both public safety and the belief that people are more than their worst actions.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony. I hope it will assist in your deliberations, and ultimately help you to support and approve this bill.

Sincerely,
James Turnipseed

30 Sorrell Rd, North Providence, RI, 02904 (401) 632 – 5381 Ligion52@gmail.com

