

My name is Kyle Campbell. I am a co-founder of the RI Freedom Collective. I humbly urge this legislative body to pass Bill 7132, and amend it to apply retroactively to 1993. I asked you to consider the widely accepted science behind this legislation. That science shows that young people, age 21, and under are still developing in ways that affect judgment, impulse control, and decision making. That science has been accepted by this legislator in the past. In addition, this legislature has more importantly, accepted the humanity of victim's voices, imprisoned persons voices, family voices, and community voices willing to accept change, and willing to get to a place where no young adult resorts to a criminal act in the first place.

I personally know Emerging adults are susceptible to change. In 1993, at the age of 17, I was sentenced to life with the possibility of parole. But before that sentence was imposed, the state was seeking LWOP, only if I sought bail. Not for my crime, not for a criminal past I did not have...but only if I sought bail. I would have still been imprisoned praying someone was fighting for me, praying that Life with the possibility of parole, and Without parole were not measures our society would need to utilize. Thank God our judiciary, executive branch, AG's office, and legislature in RI have evolved beyond solely relying on punitive measures.

For these reasons, LWOP is too extreme a sentence for that age group. Our sister state Massachusetts, plus Michigan, and Hawaii have already passed similar legislation, recognizing that young adults deserve a meaningful chance at parole review, and rehabilitation of the self. This bill should not only protect future cases, but also provide relief for the few individuals already serving these sentences. I urge each of you to deeply consider, and pass this legislation, which reflects fairness, science, capacity to understand change, and human dignity.

Thank you!

4/16/26

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