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From: Irvin and Kathy Wise <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 3:25 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Oppose H7079A

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Honorable RI House Judiciary Committee,

Dear Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I respectfully urge you to oppose H7079A and not let it get out of committee to the House floor.

I fully support second chances and criminal justice reform, including the Rhode Island Clean Slate Act (H7508) that would make expungement for those who qualify less expensive and automated. I also support other expungement bills currently being debated that would shorten waiting periods and open expungement qualification to more deserving people.

Simply put, H7079A does not accomplish what these bills do because the carve-outs in this bill create unfair exclusions that undermine its intent. Legislation should promote both accountability and real pathways to rehabilitation. As written, H7079A fails to strike that balance.

Those who have served their sentences and probation periods and have done everything the "right way" deserve fair chances to build a life with all the rights that I have. Rather than move our expungement laws forward, H7079A actually rolls us back in regards to:

- The time one waits to be eligible for expungement
- Eligibility for many who now qualify with non-violent felonies
- Changing the process from a time-based expungement system to one that requires further scrutiny from a judge
- Eliminating the ability to automate the expungement process

The original intent of H7079 was to simply open the door for Rhode Islanders to be able to seal multiple non-violent felonies. Instead, H7079A opens the door to rolling back our existing

law in so many ways that do not meet the intent of getting people to work sooner, whom it applies to, and how it can be achieved.

I believe that people can grow, change, and give back in meaningful ways, but carve-outs like these deny that opportunity to deserving people. For these reasons, I ask you to vote against H7079A when the Judiciary Committee meets today.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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