



The RI **FREEDOM** Collective

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL H7651 - RELATING TO CRIMINAL
PROCEDURE-SENTENCE AND EXECUTION**

April 28, 2026

Dear Chairperson McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Freedom Collective we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support for H7651 currently under consideration before the House Judiciary Committee.

Requiring courts to presume release for most probation violations, set reasonable bail or non-monetary conditions, and limit detention to cases involving genuine risk or danger creates a fairer and more effective system. Many technical violations do not reflect new criminal behavior, and automatic detention disrupts employment, housing, and family stability in ways that can actually increase future risk.

Ensuring prompt hearings and mandating written reasons for any detention promotes transparency, judicial accountability, and consistent decision-making.

These safeguards help ensure that probation serves its intended purpose—supporting rehabilitation and community stability—rather than becoming a pathway to unnecessary incarceration.

For these reasons we respectfully urge you to vote in favor of H7651.

Thank you for your time, your public service, and your thoughtful consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Rhode Island Freedom Collective