

Dear Chairperson Representative McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is from the community organizing group Black and Pink Providence. **We are writing as a group to urge the House Judiciary Committee to pass BAIL ON 32 (H7651) without further delay.**

Black and Pink Providence is a group of LGBTQ+ community members with a collective mission to support currently and formerly incarcerated LGBTQ+ and people living with HIV in Rhode Island. We accomplish this by connecting members to pen pals, networking, advocacy, and providing re-entry support for members returning from prison.

Many of us are currently on probation and work as advocates and peer mentors for individuals navigating being LGBTQ and justice involved. Many of us have experienced unsheltered homelessness and work within community organizations who serve the homeless population of greater Providence and Pawtucket. We are also composed of social workers, medical students, and those working in policy reform and non-profit leadership.

We would like to specifically point out that this bill does not include petty misdemeanors such as, but not limited to, loitering, trespassing and disorderly conduct as exceptions along side low level substance use for presumption of bail. We urge the committee to include petty misdemeanors as a presumption of bail within this bill. We add this as an important addition because in our experience on the ground many individuals who are navigating unsheltered homelessness and serving probation are often held without bail on charges such as trespassing, possession of an open container or disorderly conduct-among others. We feel that without including these as exceptions alongside low level substance use this will target the unhoused community and leave them at a greater risk of being held without bail and losing potential shelter placement and contact with their support systems such as housing case managers and medical providers. Thank you for your important and careful consideration of this bill.



Sincerely,

Black and Pink Providence
PO Box 23080
Providence, RI 02903
providence@blackandpink.org