

Dear Chairwoman McEntee, Vice Chair Knight, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is **Kathleen DaSilva**, and I am with **Amos House**. I am here today in support of **House Bill H7651 (Bail on 32)**.

I would like to share my experience.

I violated my probation because I missed a drug screening for Drug Court while I had the flu. I contacted my probation officer to explain that I was sick, and she told me it would be okay, especially since I was living in a sober house and doing well in my recovery.

However, instead of being allowed to continue my progress, I was arrested. Rather than reporting to my probation officer, I was taken to the ACI and held without bail for two weeks for this technical violation.

Because of that detention, I lost my placement in my sober house. When I was released, I was homeless again.

As you may know, Rhode Island has very limited sober housing, especially for women with a history of domestic violence. It took me nearly **nine months** to secure another placement. During that time, I struggled to find stable employment because I did not have stable housing. Out of necessity, I turned to sex work to survive. Returning to that environment was triggering and ultimately led to a relapse.

As a result of that relapse, I was arrested again and served another 90 days after failing a drug test for Drug Court.

When I was finally released, I was back on the streets. Eventually, I was able to enter the Amos House recovery program, where I am now working to rebuild my life and get back on track.

It has been over a year since I had the flu and missed that one screening.

I support this bill because if **H7651** had been in place, my probation officer would not have been able to issue a warrant for a technical violation like this. I would have remained in my sober house, continued my recovery, and made meaningful progress over the past year instead of starting over.

My story shows how being held without bail for a technical violation can create devastating ripple effects — disrupting recovery, causing homelessness, and pushing people further away from stability.

This bill is about fairness, accountability, and giving people a real chance to succeed.

I respectfully urge you to pass **H7651**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.