

## Ariana Costa

---

**From:** Melanie Patterson <themelaniepatterson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2026 2:16 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Pass BAIL ON 32 (H7651) without further delay

You don't often get email from themelaniepatterson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

*We have been collecting data for years and the numbers are clear—Rule 32F disproportionately impacts our communities of color, and continuously imposes unjust punishment on probationers without due cause. It unconstitutionally supports the notion that probationers are guilty until proven innocent and reinforces a cycle of coercion into plea deals from people who understand the system is already stacked against them. The playing field is inequitable from the start.*

Hi! My name is Melanie Patterson, and I am a resident of Providence. **I am writing today in support of BAIL ON 32 (H7651), and I urge the House Judiciary Committee to pass this bill without further delay.**

Rhode Island's probation system is one of the harshest in the country. Our state has the second-highest probation rate in the United States, and people accused of probation violations are often incarcerated for weeks while waiting for a hearing, even when the alleged violation would not normally result in jail time.

These unnecessary detentions can cause people to lose their jobs, housing, and stability, even if the violation is ultimately dismissed. They also contribute significantly to incarceration at the ACI—about 30% of all pretrial admissions are alleged probation violators.

This practice is also costly for taxpayers. According to the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, incarceration costs over \$250 per person per day, meaning reforming Rule 32 could save Rhode Islanders around \$24 million each year.

BAIL ON 32 (H7651) would create a fairer process by requiring courts to presume release for most probation violations, set reasonable bail or non-monetary conditions, require prompt hearings, and ensure written justification for detention. **As of now, there are unknown and seemingly uneven standards for those who are held without bail, impacted by as much the ability to have family take time away from obligations in order to be present to support the alleged violator (their presence made known usually yields leniency) or even, as our data suggests, the color of their skin. I'm sure it goes without saying that that is a glaring issue.**

This reform would help protect due process, reduce unnecessary incarceration, and make our justice system more efficient. We want a Rhode Island where everyone has equal opportunity, and the ability to turn their life around and make good decisions sooner, rather than being stuck in a cycle that encourages failure.

I respectfully urge you to pass BAIL ON 32 (H7651) without further delay.

Sincerely,

Melanie Patterson  
Providence