



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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Date: March 9, 2026

Re: RI S2161- Bail on 32

Position: SUPPORT

To: The Rhode Island Senate Judiciary Committee

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

As an organization of law enforcement professionals, Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) writes in support of SB2161, legislation that would reform how Rhode Island handles probation violations prior to a hearing. This bill advances public safety by promoting proportionality, preserving accountability, and reducing unnecessary detention that does little to improve supervision outcomes.

LEAP is an international nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience serving in the justice system. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety, addressing the root causes of crime, and working toward healing police-community relations.

From a law enforcement perspective, pre-hearing detention should be based on risk, not used as default practice. [Nationally, probation and parole violations account for a significant share of jail admissions, and the majority of those admissions stem from technical violations rather than new criminal conduct.](#) Even short periods of incarceration can destabilize employment, housing, and treatment connections, factors that are strongly associated with successful supervision and reduced recidivism.

[Experience and research consistently show that individuals who remain housed, employed, and connected to services are more likely to comply with supervision conditions and appear for court.](#) Conversely, unnecessary pre-hearing detention can increase the likelihood of future system involvement while consuming limited jail space that should be reserved for individuals who pose a genuine threat to public safety.

**LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org**

*Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition*

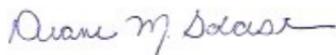
S2161 responds to these realities by establishing a presumption of release for most probation violations, while preserving the judicial discretion to detain individuals who present a true public safety risk or serious risk of nonappearance. The bill distinguishes between technical violations and new criminal conduct and ensures that violation hearings occur within a defined and reasonable timeframe. Importantly, it does not eliminate accountability or judicial authority, it simply aligns detention decisions with risk and evidence.

From a public safety standpoint, this approach strengthens supervision outcomes, reduces unnecessary jail use, and allows law enforcement and correctional resources to be focused where they are most effective. Clear standards, timely hearings, and proportional responses improve fairness, consistency, and confidence in the justice system.

For these reasons, LEAP urges the committee to give S2161 a favorable report. This legislation supports accountability, preserves judicial discretion, and promotes safer and more effective probation practices for Rhode Island communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective and for considering this important legislation.

Respectfully,



Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.)  
Redondo Beach Police Department  
Executive Director, The Law Enforcement Action Partnership