

Subject: Pass BAIL ON 32 (S2161) without further delay

Dear Chairperson Senator LaMountain and Members of the Senate Judiciary,

My name is **Nancy Krahe, LICSW**, and I am a resident Warwick, RI. I am writing to urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to pass **BAIL ON 32 (S2161)** without further delay.

Since retiring from the Providence Public Schools, I have volunteered on a weekly basis with several organizations working toward ending homelessness in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Housing First Coalition has a mission of helping people to secure stable housing as a priority to being able to secure and maintain a job, provide for themselves and/or their families, assist people in addressing mental health issues and maintaining recovery from addiction. Without a home, addressing these struggles is almost impossible.

When someone is arrested for a minor charge and denied bail while they are currently on probation, it begins a spiraling problem that never has a positive result. A person denied bail can lose their job, their source of income and ultimately lose the housing they have. If they are homeless, it places another obstacle in their way to securing housing in the future.

Within the past year, I have worked with a young man who is homeless, was on probation and has been harassed on a regular basis by Providence Police officers who have targeted him for being a drug dealer. Each time they stop him and threaten to search him (without probable cause) and threaten to arrest him if he doesn't leave Kennedy Plaza (while waiting for a bus), the harassment has caused him to resist their threats. In January 2026, they harassed him and ultimately arrested him for trespassing. He wasn't offered bail, and pled Nolo rather than serve 6 months to a year at the ACI, and was given 6 weeks. In the arrest report they indicated he had been given a no trespassing order previously. He told me that they tried to issue him the no trespassing order and have him sign it as they were in the process of arresting him. He refused to sign it at that time.

This is just one example of how a homeless person is discriminated against and taken advantage of, by SOME law enforcement officers. If this person had the financial means to hire a lawyer at the time of his arrest, he would not have pled Nolo. If he had been offered bail, he would have time to hire a lawyer and obtain body camera footage from the actual arrest.

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 **nearly \$24 million each year**.

BAIL ON 32 (S2161) 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.

This reform would help protect due process, reduce unnecessary incarceration, and make our justice system more efficient.

I respectfully urge you to **pass BAIL ON 32 (S2161) without further delay.**

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Krahe, LICSW
Rhode Island Housing First Coalition
rihousingfirstcoalition@gmail.com
Warwick, RI 02886