



The RI **FREEDOM** Collective

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL SB2161

AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE-SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

March 7, 2026

Dear Chairperson LaMountain and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Freedom Collective we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support for SB2161 currently under consideration before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Requiring courts to presume release for most probation violations, set reasonable bail or non-monetary conditions, and limit detention to cases involving genuine risk or danger creates a fairer and more effective system. Many technical violations do not reflect new criminal behavior, and automatic detention disrupts employment, housing, and family stability in ways that can actually increase future risk. Ensuring prompt hearings and mandating written reasons for any detention promotes transparency, judicial accountability, and consistent decision-making. These safeguards help ensure that probation serves its intended purpose—supporting rehabilitation and community stability—rather than becoming a pathway to unnecessary incarceration.

For these reasons we respectfully urge you to vote in favor of SB2161.

Thank you for your time, your public service, and your thoughtful consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Mario Monteiro

Steve Parkhurst

Kyle Campbell

Rhode Island Freedom Collective