

Chairman LaMountain

Senate Committee Members

Kate Lacouture, March 10, 2026

FOR S 2731, Sentencing Reconsideration Act

Good evening Chairman LaMountain and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to please support RI Senate Bill S 2731, Sentencing Reconsideration Act. This important reform would create a new process for people who have been in prison for at least 10 years to request a judge to shorten their sentence.

I am the Executive Director of Garden Time, a non profit organization that trains incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Rhode Islanders for jobs in the green industry. In my work running gardening programs at the RI ACI, I have gotten to know an individual who would benefit from the passing of this bill, Gahlil Oliveira. Gahlil has been a student in Garden Time programs for almost ten years, first at the men's maximum-security facility and now at the men's medium-security facility. He is definitely one of our best students over the years. He is good natured and kind as well as a dedicated, hard-working member of the team who is interested in acquiring new skills and knowledge. He is appreciative and respectful and his positive attitude sets the tone and makes an important contribution to the Garden Time class. We believe Gahlil should get the opportunity for parole and be given the chance to make a positive contribution to his community outside of prison.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill and vote it out of committee. Thank you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (401) 996-4922 or [kate@gardentime.us](mailto:kate@gardentime.us).

Sincerely,

Kate Lacouture

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