

David M. Winoker
Board Member, Rhode Island for Community & Justice
45 Jennys Lane
Barrington, RI 02806
Senate Judiciary Committee

March 9, 2025

My name is David Winoker, and I am lifetime Rhode Island resident serving as secretary of Rhode Island Community & Justice ("RICJ"). I feel very strongly about the importance of advocating for the youth in our community.

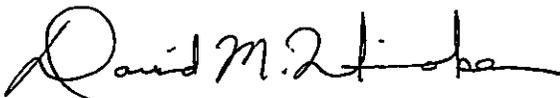
I am writing in support of the Juvenile Heard Boards ("JHB") bill which will reestablish a statewide JHB Coordinator, in partnership with Family Court, to provide support and assistance to all JHBs across Rhode Island. This measure will generate an automatic referral to a Juvenile Hearing Board for youth charged with a first-time misdemeanor.

As an active member of the community, and from my years of service to the RICJ, I have seen firsthand how offering positive disciplinary alternatives to at-risk youth can greatly impact their future and the well-being of the communities they inhabit. Intervention for first-time offenders can make all the difference and this board is the first step in improving lives.

I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve this measure to improve lives and help create safer communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Winoker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent part.

David M. Winoker