



641 Bald Hill Road
Warwick, RI 02886
401-467-9940
www.ricadv.org
ricadv@ricadv.org
24-hour Helpline:
800-494-8100

Member Agencies

Blackstone Valley
Advocacy Center

Domestic Violence
Resource Center of
South County

Elizabeth Buffum
Chace Center

Women's Resource Center

Task Force

Sisters Overcoming
Abusive Relationships

Affiliate Members

Center for Southeast Asians

Crossroads Rhode Island

Family Service of Rhode Island

McAuley Ministries –
McAuley Village

Progreso Latino

YWCA Rhode Island

To: Senator Matthew L. LaMountain, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Lucy Rios, Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: March 26, 2026

Re: **Support for Senate Bill 3036**

On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) appreciates this opportunity to express **our support regarding Senate Bill 3036**. This bill would permit those individuals convicted of multiple felonies and misdemeanors to have their records expunged and provide criteria for the court to consider in determining whether the person is of good moral character.

We appreciate that the sponsor has taken into consideration the unique survivor safety risks that are present as we strive toward building more equitable justice responses by exempting the domestic violence crimes from these proposed changes.

As we know, the overwhelming majority of incarcerated women have experienced domestic or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime.¹ Experiencing abuse is a pipeline to incarceration as survivors are trapped in conditions that leave them without stable access to housing, job security, social connections, mental and physical health, and other protective factors. As a result, **promoting survivor justice requires building systems that provide support and resources to communities impacted by incarceration.**

Many folks with criminal records experience difficulties in finding housing and employment, perpetuating the negative cycle of limited access to basic survival and safety resources. This can have fatal consequences for survivors of domestic violence, for whom the likelihood of experiencing physical abuse or homicide increases greatly when their abuser is unemployed.² Survivors are also at an increased risk of experiencing domestic violence when they are unemployed themselves, as their vulnerable economic position can make it easier for their abuser to assert power and control.²

The changes proposed by these bills recognize that all our communities, including domestic violence survivors, benefit from systems that balance accountability and fairness. Prolonged penalties for non-domestic violence related crimes do more to put our communities at risk of continued violence than to protect them. Thank you for your consideration. **We urge your support of Senate Bill 3036.**

¹ Shannon M. Lynch et al., Women's Pathways to Jail: The Roles and Intersections of Serious Mental Illness and Trauma (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2012), 32

² Sonia Bhalotra, Diogo G C Britto, Paolo Pinotti, Breno Sampaio: Job Displacement, Unemployment Benefits and Domestic Violence, *The Review of Economic Studies*, 2025; rda004, <https://doi.org/10.1093/restud/rda004>