



District Court of Rhode Island
Sarah Judicial Complex
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

JEANNE E. LAFAZIA
CHIEF JUDGE

March 20, 2026

RE: S 26-3099

Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to enthusiastically support changing the name of the Superior Court Drug Court to the Superior Court Recovery Court. For over 15 years, I served as the Vice President of the New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals (NEARCP), formerly known as The New England Association of Drug Court Professionals (NEADCP). In 2020, we officially changed our name, substituting "Recovery Courts" for "Drug Courts". This was done by a unanimous vote of all members representing all six new England states. It was believed by all that the term "Recovery Court" is a better reflection of the good work done in these specialty courts. It furthermore reduces the stigma so often attached to the name, thereby providing better opportunities for the participants who work so hard for a better, cleaner, and more productive future.

I believe this name change will better serve this important program.

I hope that you will look favorably upon this bill. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne E. LaFazia".

Jeanne E. LaFazia

JEL/mhp