



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

150 South Main Street • Providence, RI 02903
(401) 274-4400 • www.riag.ri.gov

Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary
State House, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 7832: Sexual Offender Registration and Community Notification

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write today in support of HB 7832, sponsored by Representative Jason Knight. This bill would allow the Sexual Offender Board of Review to use a structured professional judgment approach to determine the level of risk a registered sex offender poses to the community, in cases where a validated risk assessment instrument does not exist. This approach would be particularly useful in cases involving child pornography and female offender cases.

This legislation makes necessary, technical, corrections to the law in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *State v. Decredico*, 291 A.3d 544, as it is essential that the Board have the appropriate tools to level the risk of registered sex offenders. The proposed change would codify the Board's existing guidelines and reflect established and approved practices in the field of sexual offender risk leveling. Accordingly, I support this commonsense solution to align the Board's approach with industry best practices.

As always, I appreciate the Committee's consideration and am available for any further questions the Committee may have.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General