

Jose Harpin
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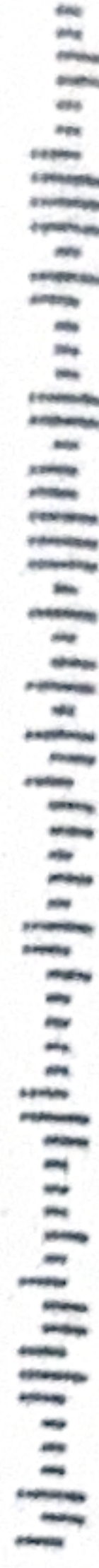
PROVIDENCE RI 028

10 JAN 2025 PM 4 L

To: The R.I. Freedom Collective
820 Elmwood ave
P.O. BOX # 27002
Providence, RI 02907



02907-059502



(This is a Template as an Example for you to use.)

From: Jose Herpin
Maximum Security
P.O. Box 8273
Cranston, R.I. 02920
Block Q2 Cell 38

Date: 1-7-25

To: Senator Chairperson Dawn Euer
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

&
To: Representative Chairperson Robert E. Craven, Sr.
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Honorable Speaker, Chairperson Euer and Chairman Craven,

My name is Jose Herpin and I'm writing in strong support of the Senate Bill and House Bill on the Second Look Act. Which provides incarcerated individuals to petition the sentencing court to consider a Motion to Reduce Sentence after the defendant has served at least ten (10) years of the sentence and would provide the superior court with jurisdiction to address Motion to Modify sentences under § 8-2-17.

I am presently employed at freedom reads, a first-of-its-kind, national organization that uses literature to confront the hopelessness and desperation that accompany time served in prison. I have been to over 23 prison in 14 states and conducted our work inside of over 190 prison housing units from Arizona to Maine.

I have also served 30 years in prison, 27 of those years at the ACI, as a juvenile life.

Having only been released in the last 16 months, I know most of the people who are incarcerated this bill would directly impact. These are the people who grow up with me for three decades. They read the same books I read. They took the same rehabilitative classes I took. They sat beside me and my family in the prison visiting rooms with their families. They did the same hard work to become better people than the bad decisions we made as kids and young adults. I was granted a second chance by the R.I. Parole Board, and mostly because of sentence structuring they haven't.

These bill would address what is lacking on the backend of lengthy sentences. Once sentenced in R.I., the only relief that exists is a rule 35 Motion to Reduce Sentence that needs to be submitted within 120 of sentencing or disposition of appeal. Or, Post Conviction Relief that is limited to sentences that illegally hold a person. And, of course parole, if the person falls within eligibility requirements. None of those avenues of relief consider rehabilitation when it is ripe, sometimes a decade or two after sentencing, for people ineligible for parole or with sentences stacked to create elongated parole eligibility dates.

I have seen, mostly through my work, but personally as well, people like me who were given an unlikely second chance and make the most of it. These are people who have become case workers at places like the Amos House, Reentry Campus Program for Roger William University, and Garden Times. They are owners of Barbers Shops throughout Providence, Restaurant Owners in Pawtucket, and directors of nonprofits, locally and Nationally.

In my vast experience with people serving lengthy sentences of all types and being released around this country through second look mechanisms, they thrive as engaged members of their communities like I have. Others serving lengthy sentences deserve this chance.

We had a meeting with House Bill sponsor, Representative Casimiro on Saturday, 4/27, as a group of formerly incarcerated men. During this meeting both Gahlil Oliviera and Jose Garcia were able to call in from the ACI to voice their own position on these bills. Folks who engage the legislative process are folks who are more engaged in their communities and don't go back to prison.

I urge you, speaker chairperson Euer and chairman Craven to strongly consider and vote to pass the Senate Bill and House Bill on Second Look.

Respectfully Submitted

Jose Herpin

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