



RHODE ISLAND BROTHERHOOD OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

"Representing Those Who Work the Toughest Beat in the State"

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Richard Ferruccio Testimony

H-5927 - 3April 2025 - Richard Ferruccio

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Ferruccio", written over the printed name.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

My name is Richard Ferruccio, and I am the president of the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, I am honored to be able to speak to you today about this legislation.

I am also a Correctional Officer with 40 plus years of experience at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections

My testimony today will be based on my years of experience as a Correctional Officer.

I am here on behalf of my membership to put on the record our strong objection to H5927. This legislation before you is extremely dangerous and will jeopardize the safety and security of the inmates held at the Department of Corrections and the Correctional line staff, most of whom I represent.

This legislation would negatively impact the discipline process and recreation time while in discipline, it sets costly restrictions on the time between meals served, sets the minimum cell size, grants inmates the power thru declaratory judgement to have any internal prison management policy at the DOC to be appealed to court, creates a restrictive housing committee with questionable make up and powers, and all this while the RI Department of Corrections is in litigation with the federal courts.

The discipline process, which is the primary focus of this legislation, is remarkably similar to the criminal laws of Rhode Island. The Disciplinary Confinement Units are the Prisons within Prison.

Our department has made substantial changes in the disciplinary procedures and reduced the sanctions at the RI DOC. These changes so far have resulted in significant increases in violence and drug use at the ACI. I have included a breakdown of the DOC discipline from 2016 to 2024.

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections is currently in federal mediation regarding the discipline processes. This legislation would negatively impact on the process.

We have an incredible group of men and women who put their lives on the line every day in the name of public safety at the RI DOC.

We ask that you stand by them and reject this legislation.

Two years ago, I testified that we operated one of the safest best run prison systems in the country. That is not the Rhode Island Department of Corrections today.

Today, the ACI is a quite different place. But we are moving back to the days when the ACI was a dangerous prison.

Director Salisbury has implemented a number of changes in the discipline which has had a negative effect on the inmate population.

Again, I am always willing to meet with any legislators or anyone to improve our system. As I said in the past, nothing is perfect, but what we were doing in Rhode Island had been a tremendous success and was the model for our entire country but that is changing rapidly.

I am always available to meet with any elected legislature to address the misinformation being put out regularly about the RI Prison System.

At this point I will take any questions you might have.

YEAR	Total inmates	Total Physical Violence	Assaults on Officers	U.O.F.	Contraband illicit substance	Medical
2016	3068	308	32	146	131	392
2017	2958	305	23	170	109	402
2018	2784	345	28	166	68	535
2019	2665	331	22	166	136	617
2020	2544	238	19	173	84	469
2021	2144	232	22	195	129	634
2022	2132	304	35	205	167	612
2023	2298	382	38	202	335	717
2024	2346	464	58	281	252	926

A.T. Wall Director In 2016

2024 had **722** less inmates than 2016

2024 had **156** more Physical Violence than 2016 (**50% increase**)

2024 had **26** more Assaults on Officers than 2016 (**81% increase**)

2024 had **135** more Uses Of Force than 2016 (**92% increase**)

2024 had **121** more Illicit substances found than 2016 (**92% increase**)

2024 had **534** more General Medical incidents than 2016 (**136% increase**) *More Hospital trips, O.T. and medical cost for hosp. stays/treatments*

Patricia Coyne Fague Director in 2022

2024 had **214** more inmates than 2022

2024 had **160** more Physical Violence than 2022 (**52 % increase**)

2024 had **23** more Assaults on Officers than 2022 (**65 % increase**)

2024 had **76** more Uses Of Force than 2022 (**37 % increase**)

2024 had **85** more Illicit substances found than 2022 (**50 % increase**)

2024 had **314** more General Medical incidents than 2022 (**51% increase**) *More Hospital trips, O.T. and medical cost for hospital stays/treatments*