



SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF COYOTE RI

To the members of the House Judiciary Committee:

January 24th, 2022

My name is Bella Robinson. I am a resident of West Warwick, (District 27- Representative Patricia Serpa).

I am writing to you today in support of H7086- "AN ACT RELATING TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURES-EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS", which allows for the expungement of multiple felony convictions for non- violent felonies 20 years after sentence is completed.

We suggest that H7086 be amended to" 5 years after the sentence is completed". Felony convictions create barriers to future employment and housing and are often used to discriminate against people in child custody cases.

Often felony convictions are caused by poverty and lack of public services.

We believe everyone deserves a second chance and mass incarceration has proven to be a failure. It traumatizes people, and forces them into the edges of society and it breaks up families and causes people to be displaced. Criminal convictions create barriers to future employment and housing. It's time we reduce Rhode Island's incarceration rates and provide people being released with adequate resources to rebuild their lives.

In fact we would like to know why any legislators think that previously incarcerated people should wait 20 years after they have completed their sentences to rejoin society.

For these reasons we ask you to vote YES on H7086 with the amendment we suggested.

Sincerely,

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2022 FreeHer Fellowship Facilitator