



March 6th, 2023

Dear House Judiciary Committee:

I am a Rhode Island voter and a representative from COYOTE RI writing to you today in strong support of [H5563](#) "No Cash Bail"

In RI if you are arrested on a Friday at noon, you can not bond out until you see a judge on Monday. This also requires having the money to pay the bond. So if a person is arrested Friday at noon, they are unable to pick up their kids at school, and their children are handed over to DCYF. The person does not call in sick to work for 2 shifts so they are fired from her job and they haven't even been convicted of anything.

In most states for non violent offenses, the officer writes the bond amount on the booking form, and as soon as they process the person arrested and take their fingerprints and mugshot, they can bond out, if they have the money. However, currently the cash bail system creates inequalities for poorer defendants, especially among the Black, Latino and minority communities.

Those who pose no danger or risk to the public and are not a flight risk should not be held hostage because they can not afford bail.

Please be part of the solution and vote YES on H5563

Thank you for your time and consideration

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COYOTE RI

Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics, Rhode Island (COYOTE RI) is a group of current and former sex workers and sex trafficking survivors working on "policy" for improved health and safety for people in Rhode Island's sex industry. Learn more at www.coyoteri.org

