



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 [H5149](#).

Nobody should be defined forever for one incident in their life. Many people who have served decades in prison are not the same person they used to be. They are not a risk or danger to the community. Many people convicted of murder were only convicted because they were with someone who committed a murder and they are not a risk or danger to the community.

In fact Kristen law that was passed in RI in 2018, says if you give or sell someone drugs and they die of an overdose that they can be charged with first degree murder. Not only does Kristen's law allow folks to be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole it undermines the "Good Samaritan Law" which saves lives. In RI someone can get in a car drunk and kill several people and they are only charged with DUI manslaughter and they usually get less than a 10 year sentence. Kristen law is also costing RI and [extra million dollars a year in autopsies](#).

Everyone deserves a 2nd chance, and we can't continue to lump all murder convictions in the same box. Nobody deserves to die in prison.

Please be part of the solution and vote YES on H5149

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