



TESTIMONY H5149 IN OPPOSITION, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALLIANCE FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES, CAROLYN MEDEIROS:

I have advocated for victims of violent crimes in Rhode Island since 2004. A necessary evil of testifying and advocating for these victims is the necessity of addressing the heinous crimes and names of those who perpetrated those crimes. Therefore, it necessitates I mention these individuals periodically.

If there were a goal I could achieve tonight through testimony, it would be to, "Amplify the Good". "The Good" referring to the good souls from the list of victims I will highlight. I would attempt to extract anything else negative such as their executioners and the heinous, violent, perverse acts these criminals carried out on their victims.

Lives were taken, beautiful innocent lives. Mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, grandmothers, grandfathers, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, wives, husbands, cousins, friends and members of loving supportive communities throughout Rhode Island.

The Alliance for Safe Communities moves forward in 2023 with a new and lasting mantra.... "SAY THEIR NAMES"!

KRISTEN JORGE, KELLY ANDERSON, SAVANAHH SMITH, LINDSY BURKE, KENDRA HUTTER, JEANNE ROBINSON, KELLY MCGINTY MCMANNUS, MICHEAL BATISTA AND RAPHAEL EDWARDS, CARLOS CHANG, ROSARIO HILARIO AND THIER 4 CHILDREN, MILE DIS HILARIO, MARGARETTE DUFFY STEPHENSON, PAMELA PLANTE, JENNY LEE BAILY, JASON BURGESS AND AMY SHUTE, SANJEV PATEL, GABRIEL MEDEIROS, ANGELA SPENCE SHAW, ERNEST AND ALICE BRENDEL AND THEIR 8 YEAR OLD EMILY BRENDEL, DETECTIVE JAMES ALLEN, BARBARA REIGOSA AND DIRMAS RODEZNO.

This Bill sets a precedent that the most heinous crimes committed will not be met with the most serious consequences. We do not have a death penalty in Rhode Island therefore there will be no ultimate deterrent existing. This is not a "2nd Death Sentence, as referred to by Representative Edwards. Plea hearings allow the defendant actual opportunities to overturn their convictions and seek relief from their life sentences w/out parole. (See separate attached sheet).

We are lowering the bar for one's responsibility and accountability for the most heinous of crimes committed.

This bill if passed into law cannot deny that if attempting to “Save 1 “as Representative Edwards claims, a chance for all 29 others would not be eligible for review of their convicted status, “Life w/out parole”. The risk of embarking on such actions is quite remarkable given the window of opportunity for possibly devastating consequences.

Parole Boards do not replace Judge’s and Jury’s nor should they. There are many instances our parole boards in Rhode Island have simply not executed the right decisions.

To undue the decisions by a Judge and or Jury, is an affront to justice for the victims and their loved ones.

The result for many victims and their families is the reality that the “ Promises made will become the Promises Broken”.

Matching reduced sentencing criteria elements of this bill to actual cases on the “Court/ Article pages proved to be quite disturbing.

Kidnapping a minor injury / death resulting/ 8-year-old Savannah Smith

Robbery of the owner, lessor, or occupant of a motor vehicle/ injury death resulting/ Jason Burgess and Amy Shute

Using a firearm when committing a crime of violence/ Detective Allen, Sanjev Patel, Jason Burgess, Amy Shute, and Gloria Medeiros, Barbara Reigosa and Dirmas Rodenzo.

The reduction of the “life w/out parole sentence” for a criminal acting w/ a firearm regarding injury or death vs our current climate of attempts to confiscate guns from law-abiding citizens does not escape the scrutiny of its irony.

Alliance also opposes the elements of the bill regarding eligible work release or furlough applied to the category of “life w/out parole”, health and age of the criminal being the qualifying factors. May we refer to the cases we have presented as comparison and contrast?

Savanah Smith’s age of “8 yrs.” victim of kidnapping, rape and murder was not relevant to her executioner Joshua Davis. His “literary” boasting “ He enjoyed his catch” demonstrates that fact.

Emily Brendel’s age of 8 was not relevant to Christopher Hightower when he kidnapped , drugged her , and buried her in a shallow grave upon her mother’s dead body whom he previously killed along w/ her father.

Angela Spence Shaw’s elder age of 66 did not matter to Jeremy Motyka who beat, raped, and disposed of her in a full bathtub with a hair dryer for certainty. Angela Spence Shaw, a grandmother!

The 17-year-old pregnant Jenny Lee Baily’s health condition did not matter to Pacheco who insured her brutal death. She simply was “in the way” of his plans for the future.

Finally and reluctantly, I must ask the obvious question from the list of convicted offenders with life parole sentences; “Whom amongst them if this bill were to currently pass, would be eligible to have their convicted status change”?

Charles Smith, Myelinic, Richardson, Brown, Pacheco, Martinez, Tassone, McManus, Christopher Quinlan and Sanchez Collins, Kenneth Day, Jose Garcia, Freddie Bishop, Hamlet Lopez, Edwin Edwards, Roger Graham, Jeremy Motyka, Christopher Hightower, Esteban Carpio, Richardson, or Joshua Davis, and Roberto Diaz ?

It pains me to list and say these names as the only relevance they have is to be equated with “EVIL”.

In closing I ask that the names of the victims resonate in our memories tonight. We would not be here if not for the loss of their lives, and that is of paramount importance.

“SAY THEIR NAMES” AND REMEMBER THEM, FOR HISTORY IS KNOWN TO REPEAT ITSELF WHEN WE FORGET. THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS BILL ATTEMPTS TO CONVENIENTLY OBLITERATE THE MEMORIES OF THESE VICTIMS.

Carolyn Medeiros, Executive Director Alliance for Safe Communities.

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