

Roberta DiMezza

From: Tatiana Rothchild <tatiana.rothchild@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 1:32 PM
To: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; House Judiciary Committee
Cc: COYOTE Rhode Island
Subject: Support of H7307 and Opposition of H7165

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Greetings,

I am a Political Science PhD Candidate at Northeastern University asking you today to support H7307 and oppose H7165. I have been an anti-human trafficking researcher and activist for over ten years, and I staunchly support protections that empower all workers to safely report crimes. **80% of Rhode Island sex workers said they would report serious crimes to police if there were an immunity law in place to protect them.** Any serious attempt to promote public safety or end sex trafficking must include allowing ALL sex workers, sex trafficking survivors, and clients (who are first responders in most cases of sex trafficking) to report violence without being charged with prostitution or massaging without a license. H7307 accomplishes this. H7165, however, does not include immunity for massage without a license, even though 13 out of 16 prostitution related misdemeanors in 2021 were for massage without a license and the war on Rhode Island sex workers has targeted Asian spa workers for the last several years. **Please vote no on H7165 and yes on H7307** to increase protections for sex workers and identification of victims of violent crimes, including human trafficking.

Tatiana Rothchild
Providence, RI 02908