

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Jayna Ahsaf <jahsaf@thecouncil.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 7:36 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Senate.Judiciary@rilegislature.gov  
**Subject:** S2439/H7048

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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To the Judiciary Committees,

My name is Jayna Ahsaf and I work for the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls in Vermont. I have seen first hand the harm done to children when separated from their primary caregiver. With the rise in women's incarceration over the past few decades, an increasing number of children have been impacted.

I'm writing to urge you to vote in favor of S2439/H7048 An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure - Sentence and Execution.

This bill asks the judge to weigh the harm done to the child against the imminent danger the individual is to the community, and if the former is greater, to impose a non-incarceration consequence. Clearly the bill also includes other primary caregivers of children, including fathers and grandmothers. It also includes care of elderly, disabled, and terminally ill family members even if, in most instances, we are talking about mothers and children.

I am happy to see Rhode Island consider this bill and hope you will soon join the other seven states which have passed similar bills into law, including my home state of Vermont.

Sincerely,  
Jayna Ahsaf

Jayna Ahsaf (she/her)  
VT Campaign Director  
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