

Roberta DiMezza

From: Louellyn Lambros <llambros@thecouncil.us>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 11:18 AM
To: Senate Judiciary Committee; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: S2439/H7048 An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure - Sentence and Execution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees,

My name is Louellyn Lambros, and I am the policy director for The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls.

I write to you today to ask you to support S2439/H7048 An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure - Sentence and Execution. If you pass this bill, Rhode Island will be the eighth state in the country to enact some form of primary caretakers legislation. While our main concern as an organization has been the impact of separation of mothers from their children, given a 750% rise in the incarceration of women since 1980, we recognize that a primary caregiver can be a grandmother, a father, an aunt, etc. This bill acknowledges that, as well as the fact that family caregiving can also mean caring for an elderly person, someone with a disability, or someone with a terminal disease.

It asks the judge to weigh the harm done to the child (or other family member) against the imminent danger the individual is to the community and if the former is greater, to impose a non-incarceration consequence.

As members of the Senate and Judiciary Committees, one of your main tasks is to promote, as best you can, the well-being and safety of the large community. I would argue that the community destabilization that occurs through family separation, when not necessary, is counter-productive to the goal of public safety.

I ask you to join Illinois, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Missouri, Vermont, Washington, and Louisiana in passing this bill. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Louellyn Lambros
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Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
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