

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Jena Goodinson <jenagoodinson@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:21 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Sen. Urso, Lori  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill H7487 – Care of Dogs Penalties

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Dear Chairwoman Carol Hagan McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill H7487**, relating to violations of Rhode Island's Care of Dogs statute.

H7487 directly addresses the inadequacy of current penalties for dog neglect, which are so minimal that they fail to deter harmful behavior. When first-offense fines are negligible, repeat offenders are able to continue violating the law with little consequence. This bill corrects that failure by increasing penalties and establishing substantial fines and potential imprisonment for second and subsequent violations.

This legislation is especially relevant because it focuses on chronic and repeated neglect—cases where prior warnings, citations, or enforcement actions have already occurred, yet the behavior continues. Escalating consequences provide meaningful accountability and give enforcement agencies the tools they need to prevent ongoing harm.

By strengthening penalties for repeat violations, H7487 reinforces the seriousness of the Care of Dogs statute, promotes responsible ownership, and prioritizes the safety and welfare of dogs across the state.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support and advance House Bill H7487.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Jena G.

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