

Roberta DiMezza

From: Nancy Kellner <nrkellner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 3:25 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H7198 Testimony

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Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 7198. The state of Rhode Island must do everything in its power to protect our immigrant neighbors and accord them the same protections as the rest of the population. The minor offense of a misdemeanor can derail an otherwise unsullied life. According to the ACLU, "most people who are charged with a misdemeanor do not actually get sentenced to, or serve, one year in prison. However, despite the actual sentence a person receives, because these crimes carry a potential prison sentence of up to one year, members of the immigrant community may be subject to detention and deportation under a federal law that addresses various crimes that have a potential sentence of one year or more. This means that a one-day difference in sentencing can be the deciding factor in whether a long-time Rhode Islander is able to stay with their family and community, or face the challenges of deportation."

Please exercise common sense and decrease the maximum possible demeanor by one day. One day! What a difference a day makes.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Nancy Kellner
10 Hope Street
Bristol, RI

