

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Nori Duncan <nori.duncan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 9:32 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** re: testimony in support of H7198, the 364 Days Bill

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I write in support of House Bill 7198, which would change the maximum prison sentence for a misdemeanor offense from one year to 364 days.

Under immigration law, certain minor convictions that are punishable by a year or more in prison may lead to the following consequences for immigrants: detention, denial of necessary forms of immigration relief, or deportation. By making a one-day change in the definition of "misdemeanor," this bill would protect hundreds of Rhode Islanders from these unnecessarily harsh immigration outcomes.

Under this bill, judges would have the discretion to impose prison sentences up to 364 days instead of 365. Passing this legislation would help protect vulnerable members of our immigrant community, including asylum seekers and victims of domestic violence, who otherwise could be barred from immigration relief due to a misdemeanor conviction. New York, Washington, and Nevada have amended their criminal codes in recent years in this way to protect their residents against harsh immigration consequences.

I urge the Committee to send this bill to the House floor for a vote. Rhode Island needs legislation to protect our immigrant community from the harsh consequences of federal law for instances of minor misconduct.

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