

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rebecca E. Dupras. I am an attorney and the owner of Dupras Law located at 395 Smith Street, Providence, RI and I also live in Providence. I am also a member of the Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island.

I am writing in support of HB 7198 to amend the maximum penalty for a misdemeanor from 365 to 364 days. This change to the legislation is important to protect community members from unfair treatment for the commission of minor offenses. The small change is not substantive as it relates to punishment for criminal misdemeanors but it is substantive as it relates to the imposition of other penalties, particularly as it relates to federal immigration matters. There are many members of our community who are negatively impacted in a way that is unfair and unjust in the totality. As such, I am writing in support of the amendment as proposed in HB 7198. Thank you in advance for your support.



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