

## Roberta DiMezza

---

**From:** barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 10:33 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** testimony opposing H7550 from Barry Schiller

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from bschillert358@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear House Judiciary Committee

Please oppose bill H7550 which seems intended to severely punish protests that step into the streets, as was the case with the recent "No Kings" rallies as well as many marches intended to support civil rights, libraries, public transit, homeless persons, and more. I note the existing disorderly conduct law in 11-4.5-1 section (4) already covers infractions of obstructing traffic with maximum sentence 6 months, this bill ups it to minimum of 1 to as much as 5 years, clearly excessive. Further, it is written so broadly that people waiting for a bus in the street because the sidewalk is blocked by snow could be seen in violation as that could slow or be deemed to obstruct traffic. It gives motorist desire to speed precedence over all other uses with severe penalties for violators.

Further, there is no evident problem of blocking traffic to justify changing the law.

That said, I think it is reasonable to increase the penalties for blocking expressways and active rail lines (where pedestrians are never allowed) to deter that as it is more dangerous to do that given the higher speed on those roads and the difficulty of quickly stopping a train. Blocking those things also causes more serious inconvenience and it seems legitimate to have higher penalties for violations there.

Thank you for considering my views  
Barry Schiller, North Providence