

Roberta DiMezza

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 9:15 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support for H 8058 (2026)

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Hello House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for H 8058 (2026). I have witnessed firsthand how the use of the word “sole” has contributed to repeated harassment of a school committee member. The individual targeted endured ongoing abuse, and despite the clear and serious impact, there were no meaningful consequences for the person responsible for sending threatening communications.

Public service should never come with threats of violence, intimidation, or harm to one’s family. When such behavior does occur, public officials deserve meaningful protection and a clear path to justice.

This updated legislation is a critical step toward addressing this gap. By clarifying existing language, H 8058 can help prevent similar situations and ensure that members of our school committees or other elected officials can serve without fear of persistent harassment or retaliation.

I urge you to support H 8058 to better protect individuals and foster safe, respectful environments for all. Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to our communities.

Sincerely,
Dr. Erin Earle
North Kingstown School Committee