

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** MaryKae Wright <wright518@gmail.com>  
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**TO:** House Committee on Judiciary, RI General Assembly

### Testimony for Public Hearing March 24, 2026

Representative McEntee and Members of the Committee, my name is MaryKae Wright from Bristol. I am submitting this written testimony *in favor* of the following bill that is on the agenda for public hearing and discussion on March 24, 2026:

**H 8077 AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS** - Provides for municipal and state police authorities to acquire and to utilize automated license plate readers and identify what data may be collected and in what ways the data can be used.

I spent more than 4 months advocating with our Bristol Town Council against the approval of adding a Flock camera. Unfortunately, they did approve this in February despite overwhelming opposition from the community, but passed a municipal ordinance with some limits on the use of the camera, although not as many or as strong as we hoped. All 5 councilors strongly commented on the need for statewide legislation for regulating these cameras consistently across the state. Some towns have the cameras and some have rejected them, and the approval process and limitations varies from one town to another. This legislation is badly needed to protect civil liberties, prevent misuse, and limit mass surveillance. I was especially alarmed to read about multiple instances of misuse, especially the sharing of data with ICE for tracking immigrants, often without the knowledge of local and state police departments. Standard regulations are being called for in states all over the country and Ri must join them to add these protections.

Thank you for taking my testimony.