

## Roberta DiMezza

---

**From:** Melonie Perez <melonie@daretowin.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 2:53 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** DARE Testimony in Support of H 8115

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Chairperson McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE) respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 8115, which would require the Department of Corrections to adopt body camera policies for correctional staff.

For 40 years, DARE has organized low-income families in communities of color across Rhode Island to fight for social, political, and economic justice. Through our work, we regularly hear from individuals and families impacted by the correctional system, many of whom describe experiences marked by a lack of transparency and accountability.

H 8115 represents an important step toward addressing these concerns.

The use of body cameras can help ensure that interactions within correctional facilities are documented, reviewed, and held to appropriate standards. This can serve to both deter harmful behavior and protect correctional officers in their daily work.

We are particularly encouraged by the bill's requirement that the Department of Corrections engage in stakeholder consultation when developing these policies. Meaningful input from impacted individuals, advocates, and community organizations is essential to ensuring that body camera use promotes accountability while respecting privacy and dignity. This legislation can contribute to safer conditions, greater transparency, and increased public trust in Rhode Island's correctional system.

DARE urges the Committee to pass House Bill 8115.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melonie Perez  
Behind The Walls Committee Organizer  
DARE  
Direct Action for Rights and Equality  
340 Lockwood St  
Providence, RI 02907  
(401) 291-0465  
SUSTAIN OUR WORK