

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Melonie Perez <melonie@daretowin.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 1:48 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Support for H 8115 – Body Camera Policy in Corrections

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Dear Chairperson McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Melonie Perez, and I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 8115, which would require the Department of Corrections to adopt body camera policies for correctional officers.

This legislation is an important step toward increasing transparency, accountability, and safety within Rhode Island's correctional system. For too long, incidents that occur inside correctional facilities have gone unseen and, in many cases, unaddressed. The lack of consistent oversight can lead to harm, mistrust, and unresolved disputes between incarcerated individuals and staff.

Body cameras can serve as a critical tool to protect both correctional officers and incarcerated people. They provide an objective record of interactions, which can help prevent misconduct, de-escalate conflicts, and ensure that all parties are treated with dignity and respect. In situations where incidents do occur, recorded footage can support fair investigations and help bring clarity and accountability.

I also strongly support the bill's requirement that policies be developed with stakeholder input. It is essential that impacted individuals, advocates, and community members have a voice in shaping how these systems are implemented to ensure they are used responsibly and effectively.

Rhode Island has an opportunity to lead with a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to transparency in our correctional facilities. Passing H 8115 would be a meaningful step toward building trust and improving conditions for everyone involved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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