

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Antone Souza <asouza@risd.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 1:10 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Read, III, Earl A.; Rep. Shanley, Evan P.  
**Subject:** Thank You for the Opportunity to Testify in Support of HB 8293  
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Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the House Judiciary Committee regarding HB 8293. I appreciate the Committee's time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation impacting campus safety across Rhode Island.

As both the Chief and Director of Public Safety at the Rhode Island School of Design and the President of the Rhode Island College and University Public Safety Administrators Association, I strongly support HB 8293 because it would enhance the overall safety of our campus communities. This legislation would provide clarity and appropriate authority for trained campus public safety officers to temporarily detain individuals suspected of committing crimes on our campuses until local law enforcement can assume responsibility. This is an important public safety tool that helps protect students, faculty, staff, and visitors while ensuring incidents are handled safely and professionally.

Our departments work closely with our local law enforcement partners, and this bill would further strengthen those partnerships while helping us fulfill our shared responsibility of maintaining safe learning environments. The ability to act promptly during critical incidents is essential to preventing escalation and protecting our campus communities. I respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 8293 so that Rhode Island's colleges and universities can continue to maintain the highest standard of campus safety.

Thank you again for your leadership and your consideration of this important public safety measure. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information or serve as a resource to the Committee as you continue your deliberations on HB 8293.

Respectfully,

Antone Souza, Jr.  
Chief and Director of Public Safety  
Rhode Island School of Design

President  
Rhode Island College and University Public Safety Administrators Association

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**Antone D. Souza, Jr**  
**Chief / Director of Public Safety**

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