

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Brandon Robinson <[brobinson@opendoorsri.org](mailto:brobinson@opendoorsri.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2026 6:49 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Support Letter for H-7281

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

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brandon Robinson, and I am a resident of Providence, Rhode Island. I write in support of House Bill H-7281, sponsored by Representatives Cruz, J. Brien, Potter, Stewart, Kislak, Place, McEntee, Sanchez, Shanley, and Craven.

Reducing waiting periods for expungement to 3 years for misdemeanors and 5 years for felonies reflects a more realistic understanding of rehabilitation. Long waiting periods unnecessarily delay opportunities for individuals who have already demonstrated change.

This bill removes barriers earlier, allowing people to contribute to the workforce and their communities without prolonged punishment.

From my perspective, through my work in reentry, advocacy, and systems change, I have seen how extended waiting periods keep people stuck in cycles of instability even after they have done everything right. When someone has remained crime-free for years, continuing to deny access to employment, housing, and education does not serve justice—it prolongs harm. Shortening these timelines recognizes growth, supports economic mobility, and aligns our policies with what we know about behavior change and rehabilitation.

This is not about lowering standards—it is about removing unnecessary barriers once those standards have already been met. When people are able to move forward sooner, they are better positioned to support themselves, their families, and their communities.

I respectfully urge your support for House Bill H-7281.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Robinson  
Providence, RI

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