

Roberta DiMezza

From: Brandon Robinson <brobinson@opendoorsri.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 6:54 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support Letter for H-7651

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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-7651, sponsored by Representatives Batista, Cruz, Potter, Alzate, Felix, J. Lombardi, Morales, Stewart, and Shanley.

This bill promotes fairness in the justice system by requiring courts to presume release for most probation violations and to limit detention to cases involving actual risk or danger.

Too often, individuals are detained for technical violations rather than new offenses, disrupting employment, family stability, and progress toward rehabilitation. These disruptions can undo months or years of positive progress and place unnecessary strain on families and communities.

By emphasizing proportionality, timely hearings, and clear reasoning, this bill strengthens both fairness and accountability.

I support this bill because, through my work in reentry and justice reform, I have seen how technical violations—missed appointments, misunderstandings, or administrative issues—can lead to incarceration that does not improve public safety. Instead, it destabilizes individuals who are actively working to rebuild their lives. When we respond to these situations with incarceration rather than support and proportional accountability, we create setbacks instead of progress.

This bill aligns our system with what we know works: focusing resources on true risks to public safety while supporting individuals in successfully completing probation. That approach strengthens trust in the system and leads to better long-term outcomes.

I respectfully urge your support for House Bill H-7651.

Sincerely,
Brandon Robinson MPA/CPM, (He/Him)

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