

Roberta DiMezza

From: Brandon Robinson <brobinson@opendoorsri.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 7:05 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support Letter for H-8084

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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-8084, sponsored by Representatives Cruz, Handy, Ajello, Stewart, Batista, Morales, Casimiro, and Potter.

This bill allows individuals convicted of simple possession to clear their records after three years—a commonsense reform addressing low-level offenses. Removing these barriers improves access to employment, housing, and long-term stability.

From my perspective, through my work in reentry and community advocacy, I have seen how low-level possession charges can have long-lasting consequences that far outweigh the offense itself. These records often follow individuals for years, limiting opportunities and making it harder for people to move forward, even after they have demonstrated change.

A three-year waiting period is both reasonable and fair. It provides enough time to demonstrate accountability while ensuring that individuals are not burdened indefinitely for minor offenses. When we remove these unnecessary barriers, we create pathways to employment, strengthen families, and support healthier communities.

This bill reflects a more balanced and effective approach—one that prioritizes opportunity, stability, and common sense.

I respectfully urge your support for House Bill H-8084.

Sincerely,

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