

Roberta DiMezza

From: Brandon Robinson <brobinson@opendoorsri.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 7:07 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support Letter for H-8085

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-8085, sponsored by Representatives Cruz, Handy, Ajello, Stewart, Batista, Sanchez, Casimiro, and Potter.

This bill allows expungement of petty misdemeanors after one year, ensuring minor offenses do not create long-term barriers. This is a practical and fair reform that supports reintegration.

I support this bill because, through my work in reentry and community advocacy, I have seen how even the smallest offenses can carry disproportionate, long-term consequences. A single petty misdemeanor can limit access to jobs, housing, and education—outcomes that do not align with the severity of the offense. When people are held back for something minor long after they have moved on, it creates unnecessary obstacles to stability and growth.

A one-year waiting period is both reasonable and responsible. It allows for accountability while ensuring that individuals are not burdened indefinitely for low-level mistakes. Policies like this help people get back on track quickly, which strengthens families, supports workforce participation, and benefits our communities as a whole.

This bill reflects a commonsense approach to justice—one that is fair, proportional, and focused on creating pathways forward.

I respectfully urge your support for House Bill H-8085.

Sincerely,

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