

Roberta DiMezza

From: Nichole Bonollo <nichole.bonollo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 5:52 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support for H8055

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To the House Judiciary Committee

Re: Support for H8055

April 9, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nichole Bonollo, and I am writing in strong support of **House Bill H8055**. I offer this testimony not only as a Rhode Island resident, but as **one of the police dispatchers working at the time of a call involving an assault with intent to commit murder**.

There are some calls that never leave you. This was one of them.

As dispatchers, we are the first voice people hear in the most terrifying moments of their lives. We hear the panic, the screaming, the confusion, and the desperate attempts to save a life before officers and rescue can even arrive. In cases involving attempted murder, every second matters, and the trauma of hearing that violence unfold in real time stays with us long after the call is over.

What makes these incidents especially difficult is knowing the sheer intent behind the act. These are not minor assaults. These are deliberate acts where someone is trying to take another human life. The physical injuries to victims are devastating, but the emotional damage spreads far beyond the immediate victim—to families, neighborhoods, responding officers, EMS, and even the dispatchers who carry those moments with them.

H8055 recognizes the seriousness of these crimes by establishing meaningful sentencing of **10 to 40 years without probation, suspension, or deferment** for assault with intent to commit murder. As someone who has lived the reality of taking one of these calls, I strongly believe the law should reflect the gravity of the violence and the lifelong consequences it creates.

This bill is about accountability, public safety, and sending a clear message that attempted murder will be treated with the severity it deserves.

I respectfully urge you to support H8055.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nichole Bonollo
Former Police Dispatcher
Warwick, RI

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