

Roberta DiMezza

From: Victoria Jepson <vjepson21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 5:02 PM
To: Roberta DiMezza; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.
Subject: Testimony in Support of the Victim Proximity Protection Act

Hello,

My name is Viktoryia Jepson, and I am writing in strong support of the Victim Proximity Protection Act sponsored by Megan Cotter.

I recently became aware of a serious gap in Rhode Island law when a Level 3 registered sex offender moved into the neighborhood, while one of his victims lives just one street away. I was shocked to learn that under current Rhode Island law, there are no residency restrictions preventing convicted sex offenders from living next door to, across the street from, or even in the same apartment building as their victims.

This lack of protection places victims and their families in an impossible situation. Survivors of sexual violence already carry lifelong emotional and psychological trauma. Being forced to live in close proximity to the person who harmed them can retraumatize victims, undermine their sense of safety, and negatively impact their healing and recovery.

This issue is not about punishment beyond a sentence — it is about basic victim protection and public safety. Victims deserve the ability to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods without fear of unexpectedly encountering their offender in daily life.

As a parent and community member, this situation has deeply concerned me. I believe Rhode Island must take reasonable steps to ensure victims are protected from unnecessary and harmful proximity to convicted offenders, particularly those considered high risk.

I respectfully urge you to support the Victim Proximity Protection Act and help close this dangerous gap in our laws. Survivors deserve dignity, protection, and peace of mind in the communities they call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Viktoryia Jepson