

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Michael DiLauro <madpd2001@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2026 3:58 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan  
**Cc:** Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.  
**Subject:** House Bill No. 8502; House Resolution No. 8503  
**Attachments:** Federal Probation.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Chairman McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Because a prior commitment prevents me from attending this evenings hearings on the legislation referenced here I would respectfully request that you please accept this e-mail and attachments regarding the following pieces of legislation:

- **OPPOSE**

**House Bill No. 8502**

**BY Cotter, J. Brien, Corvese, McGaw, Speakman, Santucci**

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- VICTIM PROXIMITY PROTECTION ACT {LC6391/1} (Prohibits those people convicted of sex offenses from living within proximity to their victim's residences, workplaces or schools and automatically be prohibited from having any direct or indirect contact with the victim(s).)**

Residency restrictions for former offenders such as those created by this legislation have been acknowledged as ineffective, unfair, counterproductive, and giving the community in which the offender lives a false sense of security. I would like to submit and have attached the following article in opposition to the bill:

*Levenson, et al, Sex Offender Residence Restrictions: Sensible Crime Policy or Flawed Logic? 71 Federal Probation: A Journal of Correctional Philosophy and Practices No. 3*

Based upon exhaustive study and research the article concludes that there is a growing body of evidence that residence restrictions such as those that would be created by this bill should it be enacted into law would create unintended consequences for sex offenders and communities including:

1. homelessness
2. transience
3. inaccessibility to social support, employment, and rehabilitative services
4. clustering of sex offenders in poor, rural, or socially disorganized neighborhoods
5. are predicated on erroneous assumptions

- **SUPPORT**

**House Resolution No. 8503**

**BY Felix, Cruz, Potter, J. Lombardi, Hull, Tanzi, Kislak, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Fogarty ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CREATING A HOUSE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE THE INCARCERATION OF WOMEN {LC6403/1} (Creates a special legislative commission to study and provide recommendations relating to supporting community-based solutions to reduce the incarceration of women in Rhode Island.)**

The Rhode Island General Assembly has a long, distinguished, and most important productive history of creating legislative task forces and study groups made of up of the relevant stakeholders to address difficult and complex issues such as the one that would be created by this resolution. In the criminal justice field these include:

- task force to study and make recommendations regarding improving eyewitness identification procedures (2010 - § 12-1-16. Improvement of lineup procedures task force)
- enhance the electronic recording of custodial interrogations in their entirety (2011 - § 12-7-22. Electronic recording of custodial interrogations task force)
- Special Senate Task Force to Investigate and Make Recommendations for Any Changes to the Law, Court Rules or to Policies and Procedures Currently in Place to Enhance the Timely and Complete Disclosure of Discoverable Material in Criminal Cases (2018 -- R 0328 (2018 -- S 2984)).
- at other times criminal justice stakeholders have come together without a legislative mandate and worked collaboratively and successfully to achieve other reforms including:
  - The Justice Reinvestment Initiative (beginning work in 2016)
  - The Comprehensive Community Police Relationship Act (CCPRA) in 2015 (2015 RIPL Chapters 214, 235)

This resolution would go a long way to address an intractable problem that would be extraordinarily difficult to resolve in the absence of the creation of such a group.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael A. DiLauro, Esq.*  
The Just Criminal Justice Group, L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 7000  
Warwick, RI 02887-7000  
401-487-3644  
madpd2001@yahoo.com



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