

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Therese Souza <therese.souza@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:43 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry  
**Subject:** 2024 - H7100

From:  
Therese R Souza  
70 Kimberly Lane North  
Cranston, RI 02921

February 14, 2024

Dear House Judiciary Chair Robert E Craven, Sr. and House Judiciary Committee Members,

I urge you to consider the nature of American liberty when you decide to vote on the Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act. I have read some of the letters put forth by religious zealots who wish to convince you to vote against this bill with their biblical based arguments. I am struck by their confusion as if this bill would force each one of them to personally make physician assisted suicide (PAS) their goal. In fact, this bill would not affect these individuals at all. People who would not consider ending their suffering in a painless and dignified manner would have no need to send you a letter unless their goal is to deny a liberty of choice to another individual. How cold hearted! My dog will be freed of his suffering when that day comes; in a way that i could never experience because someone is forcing their religion onto other individuals and onto our government and government officials. Any law about the very personal aspects of the end of life should always be in favor of a wide variety of peoples. No one is forcing anyone to enjoy the benefits of a freely decided assisted suicide, but anyone who qualifies would be welcome and certainly thankful for your ability to recognize the all the various types of citizens in our state.

There are many states and countries where PAS is legal. Approximately 64% of Americans support legalization of PAS. The link below provides detailed information about the very few who choose this option.

<https://www.pennmedicine.org/layouts/pr%20news/two%20column%20layout.aspx>

Rhode Island has old history of supporting freedoms. Roger Williams spoke out for the separation of church and state and fought for the idea that it should be a matter of individual conscience. Don't let old puritanical ideals run our state house. They didn't work in the 1600's and they are not needed today.

Sincerely,

Therese Souza  
Rhode Island Atheist

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