

Roberta DiMezza

From: Lee Rodman <lee.rodman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 9:10 PM
To: 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. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Coyote.rhodeisland@gmail.com
Subject: Support of H7307 and Opposition of H7165

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To the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in solidarity with sex workers and sex trafficking survivors in support of H7307 and in opposition to H7165.

Any serious attempt to promote public safety or end sex trafficking must include allowing ALL sex workers, sex trafficking survivors, and clients (who are first responders in most cases of sex trafficking) to report violence without being charged with prostitution or massaging without a license. **H7307 accomplishes this.**

88% of Rhode Island sex workers report that they have been the victim or witness of a serious crime that they did not report to police. When they did report, 6% said they were arrested, 12% said they were threatened with arrest, 6% said police wouldn't take their report, and only 6% said that police did take their report.

80% of Rhode Island sex workers said they would report serious crimes to police if there were an immunity law in place to protect them.

H7165 does not include immunity for massage without a license, even though 13 out of 16 prostitution related misdemeanors in 2021 were for massage without a license and the war on Rhode Island sex workers has targeted Asian spa workers for the last several years. **Please vote no on this racist bill.**

H7165 would give bad actors another tool with which to coerce and extort sex workers by allowing them to report sex workers for prostitution and receive immunity themselves by making the report. **An immunity law should not make sex workers less safe!**

Please vote yes on H7307 and no on H7165.

Sincerely,

Lee Rodman

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