

Roberta DiMezza

House Judiciary committee,

My name is Trisha Newalu. I am representing my sex working community and myself.

I support an amendment to H7219 to ensure that HIV testing is provided optionally to persons convicted of commercial sexual activity. Currently, 11-34.1-12(a) requires persons convicted under any commercial sexual activity statute to be tested for HIV with or without their consent, regardless of someone's presumed guilt of a criminal act, we believe that people should be given a choice, an option for when and where they decide to have medical test performed.

Rhode Island's "Special Legislative Study Commission Ensuring Racial Equity and Optimizing Health and Safety Laws Affecting Marginalized Individuals" issued a report in 2023 recommending the removal of mandated testing.

Thank you for your time today,

Trisha Newalu

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