

Roberta DiMezza

From: Jimmy Blakeney <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:14 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support Shoreline Access Bills H-7645/S-2641, H-7750/S-2634, H-7376/S-2185

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RI House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to ask you to support this package of shoreline access bills. I believe in fairness to property owners, however the wealthy have manipulated the system to favor their narrow interests above the public. Rights of way and beach access are irreplaceable gems constitutionally enshrined to ALL citizens of Rhode Island.

Respectfully, James Blakeney

(2024-S 2641, 2024-H 7645) would require a municipality, when abandoning a road, to vote on whether or not to preserve an easement for walking or other types of recreation. Under current Rhode Island law the only option for a municipality that does not wish to maintain a road is to abandon it totally to the abutting private property owners.

(2024-S 2634, 2024-H 7750) would allow CRMC to protect historical footpaths used for shoreline access through official designation.

(2024-S 2185, 2024-H 7376) would educate new buyers of oceanfront property on Rhode Island shoreline access law and require disclosure of any permits or conditions of public access tied to the property, in order to avoid surprises that might come up. A recent dispute over public access of a seawall shows that this disclosure is currently lacking.

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