

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Willette, Melissa J CIV OSD OUSD P-R (USA) <melissa.j.willette3.civ@mail.mil>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:26 AM  
**To:** mforte@courts.ri.gov; sokeefe@courts.ri.gov  
**Cc:** Robert E. Craven; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Gavigan, Parker (VETS); kasim yarn; House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** RI HB 5222 - Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction  
**Attachments:** Rhode Island KDR.pdf; Report\_WyomingLawReview\_(Concurrent Jurisdiction)\_2018Jan.pdf

Good afternoon, Judge Forte and Ms. O'Keefe:

This is Melissa Willette with the Department of Defense State Liaison Office, reaching out regarding HB 5222 as it relates to Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction on Military Installations. I wanted to take this time to offer comment on your concerns regarding the policy; specifically in regard to which minors this policy would pertain to.

This bill is not meant to apply to only minors who reside on the military installation. This policy would apply to any juvenile who commits a crime on the installation. I would point to any family day on the installation, i.e. – graduations, family visits, or simple trips to the commissary; it's for all juveniles who happen to be on the installation. In states we have worked on this policy, we like to articulate that crimes are handled on the classification of the property where they happen, not based on a classification of a person on the property.

Additionally, any case involving a child who has previously committed such an act on a military installation would automatically be waived to Family Court.

**(d)In any case involving a child who has previously committed such an act on a military installation, the court shall have exclusive and automatic jurisdiction.**

I would be happy to work with you both to further alleviate concern, to promote the best possible outcomes for this bill and the juveniles who may find themselves in trouble. Please find attached a law review on the issue as well as the Knowledge Data Report prepared for Rhode Island.

Please let me know how I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

Melissa J Willette  
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