

Roberta DiMezza

From: Angela H. McParland <amcparland@sistersofmercy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 12:56 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.
Subject: Support for HB 5502

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Dear Members of the Committee,

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas have long standing commitments to vulnerable populations and clear stances against xenophobia and systemic racism. As a member of our Justice Team, I urge you to pass HB 5502 through committee and to the floor for a vote, as the Senate has modeled in past years.

While punishment should fit the crime, federal law imposes severe immigration consequences including deportation for non-citizens convicted of crimes that carry a sentence of one year or more. This arbitrary distinction does not take into account the seriousness of the crime but has devastating consequences on families. This bill would rectify that, keep families together, and prevent deportation of people for minor non-violent offenses.

Rhode Island should be a safe and welcoming place for all families, particularly in this harsh current climate. Please pass this bill to join other diverse states who have protected their residents from unnecessary harsh immigration consequences.

Thank you,
Angie Howard-McParland
77 Moorland Ave. Cranston, RI 02905

Angela Howard-McParland
Justice Resource Manager



Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
15 Highland View Road
Cumberland, RI 02864

t. 401.333.6333 x141 m. 615.943.1981
w. <https://www.sistersofmercy.org/mercy-for-justice/>

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