



March 31, 2025
Written Testimony for Public Hearing
House Judiciary Committee
Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 5502

Representative Craven and committee members.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island strongly supports H 5502 to change the maximum prison sentence for a misdemeanor offense from one year to 364 days.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island serves to enrich the quality of life for the approximately 20,000 Jews in Rhode Island and our state more broadly. Together, we translate Jewish tradition and values into action. All our work is guided by our core values including *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world, and *Hineni*, standing with others so no one stands alone. These values inform all our work, including our support for this bill, which protects many Rhode Islanders from detention and ensures continued access to necessary forms of immigration relief. Making this one-day change in the definition of “misdemeanor” can protect hundreds of Rhode Islanders from these unnecessary and harsh immigration consequences. I urge the Committee to approve this legislation and protect the state’s immigrant community.

Sincerely,
Emily Gaudreau
Director of Community Advocacy and Engagement