

Roberta DiMezza

From: Joanna Brown <joannadbrown14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:29 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Please support House Bill 5502

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Dear Representative Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 5502 that would change the maximum prison sentence for a misdemeanor offense from one year to 364 days. I am a physician caring for many immigrants and believe strongly in their freedom to be able to live in and contribute to our U.S. society.

Under immigration law, certain minor convictions that are punishable by a year or more in prison may lead to detention, denial of necessary forms of immigration relief, and deportation for immigrants. By making a one-day change in the definition of "misdemeanor," this bill would protect hundreds of Rhode Islanders from these unnecessary, harsh immigration consequences.

Passing this legislation would help protect vulnerable members of our immigrant community, including asylum seekers and victims of domestic violence, who could be barred from immigration relief due to a misdemeanor conviction.

Thank you so much for your attention. I hope you'll pass this important bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Joanna Brown, MD, MPH
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