

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** matt souza <mattsouza4@yahoo.com>  
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**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Support HB5502

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Please change the maximum prison sentence for misdemeanor offenses from 1 year to 364 days. This will protect hundreds of Rhode Islanders from deportation over minor misdemeanors.

Rhode Islanders should not be vulnerable to deportation based on a minor misdemeanor. People came here to seek refuge from violence.

What is the origin of the violence in the communities from which these immigrants hope to escape? As Amy Goodman explained on the March 30, 2021 episode of the "Democracy Now!" news program, these countries have been destabilized from "decades of the U.S.- backed military repression in places like Guatemala, where over 150,000 mainly Indigenous people were killed; in El Salvador... tens of thousands of Salvadorans killed, (by the) U.S.- backed military death squads and government; and in Honduras, the staging ground for the U.S. for the war against the Contras in Nicaragua."

We should not over a minor misdemeanor be effectively sentencing anyone to deportation and ultimately death.

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