

Roberta DiMezza

From: Victoria Restler <victoria.restler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:55 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support for H-5502

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Victoria Restler— I am a proud Providence resident, a professor at Rhode Island College, and a member of Temple Beth El where I organize with the racial justice committee. I am writing in support of H-5502 to reduce the maximum prison sentence for misdemeanor offenses by one day, from 365 days to 364 days.

I write today as an activist, a mother, an educator, and as a Jew. As Jews, so many of us know in our bones what it is to be pushed from our homeland, to have to start over, and to face discrimination. As Jews we also know the terrible risk that comes with the dehumanization of those that seem different.

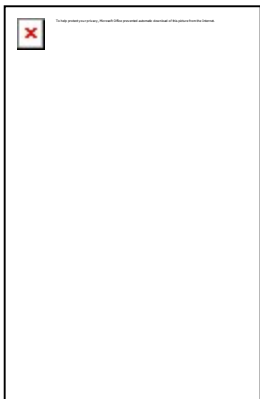
But the truth is most of us in Rhode Island—we who cannot trace our ancestors to the indigenous people of these lands—are immigrants. Maybe, like me, your elders also struggled with a new language and culture, also worked hard to carve out a life here. That is part of the story of this country. And our stories are part of what makes this country special.

These are not ordinary times in America. People—doctors, college students, husbands, grandmothers and teachers—are being disappeared. Some of these people don't have papers and some do. This government sponsored terror is a facet of authoritarian regimes everywhere and we must do everything we can to stop it. Today we are asking, with respect and with urgency to please work to protect the most vulnerable of our friends and neighbors. To please pass this bill that helps limit deportation consequences for minor offenses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Victoria Restler, PhD

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my new book: [what do you do that can't be measured? on radical care in teaching and research](#)

