

Roberta DiMezza

From: Jennifer Lima <jlima2647@gmail.com>
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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H6041

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H6041
Support
Jennifer Lima

Chair Craven and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of H6041 which would require the court to set reasonable bail for all those individuals who appear before it as probation violators and establish a presumption of personal recognizance unless the new alleged offense is a crime of violence as defined in the act.

Our justice system already makes it very expensive to be poor. Individuals in poverty unnecessarily suffer even more by being held without opportunity for bail. Being locked up for what might be a minor transgression can result in someone losing their job or housing, making the cycle of poverty even more difficult to escape.

This bill will make RI's system of bail and recognizance for alleged probation violators more just and reasonable. It would end the practice of holding individuals for up to 10 days (excluding weekends) without any hearing or opportunity to post bail, which is arguably a violation of constitutionally protected due process rights.

Reforming the bail system is a major step toward equity. RI's Black communities disproportionately bear the burden of the current policy. Black men represent only one in 20 of the state's population but represent one in six of those on probation.

I urge you to pass this bill out of committee and send it to the floor for a vote.

Thank you.

Jennifer Lima
4 Hickory Drive East
North Kingstown, RI

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Jennifer Lima (she/her/hers)

[Why Pronouns Matter](#)

[Talking About Pronouns in the Workplace - HRC Foundation \(thehrcfoundation.org\)](https://thehrcfoundation.org)

"Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome." - Arthur Chan

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