



House Judiciary

March 18, 2025

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island and our 38 member organizations, we fully support Representative Giraldo's bill H5674, prohibiting a landlord from asking about a tenant's or applicant's immigration status.

For nearly eight years, the Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island has worked tirelessly to ensure fair and equal treatment of our immigrant neighbors and families. Over the last few years, the General Assembly has taken important steps to increase access to housing and protection for many Rhode Islanders, especially as we witness increasing demands and higher costs. During this ongoing housing crisis in our state, we must continue to protect all our communities from accessing housing without discrimination, regardless of their immigration status.

This bill will help stop hate from impacting the housing of our immigrant brothers and sisters. We have heard from many Rhode Islanders how they continuously receive threats of deportation from their landlords. Fear is growing in Rhode Island and some landlords are using that fear to take advantage of their tenants.

We must understand that this legislation protects families with all immigration statuses, including special visas, refugee status, and even mixed-status families. This legislation will safeguard families from discrimination based on their status or lack of citizenship, even when many of these families legally reside in the U.S.

The Immigration Coalition of Rhode Island urges this committee and the House of Representatives to protect Rhode Island families from continued housing discrimination. We hope that the work that this General Assembly has done over the last few years to safeguard housing access continues, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Ocampo Sheen

Immigration Coalition of RI Coordinator

THE IMMIGRANT COALITION OF RHODE ISLAND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island (ACLU RI)
AMOR: Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)
Center for Justice RI
Coalition for a Multilingual RI (CMRI)
Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO)
Conexión Latina Newport
Connecting for Children and Families
DARE: Direct Action For Rights And Equality
Diocese of Providence
Dorcas International Institute
Economic Progress Institute
Elmwood Avenue Church of God Refugee Relief
First Unitarian Church of Providence Sanctuary Group
Fuerza Laboral
International House of Rhode Island
KIDS COUNT RI
Latino Policy Institute
New Bridges for Haitian Success
Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA)
Olneyville Resilience Hub
Oasis International
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Progreso Latino
Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM)
Refugee Dream Center
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV)
RI Coalition for Children and Families
RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty
RI State Council of Churches
RWU Immigration Law Clinic
RWU Pro Bono Collaborative
Sisters of Mercy
Sojourner House
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
The Jewish Alliance of Greater RI
The Liberian Community Association
Truth in Immigration Project