

Hello my name is Sam Wallace. I'm a Providence resident and a public school librarian. I'm testifying in support of HB5674. I work with many students who are afraid of ICE and the increase in presence of migration officials reported in the news. As we've seen with recent deportations of Rasha Alawieh, despite having a valid visa, no one in our community is safe. This bill gives teeth to the saying, "Immigrants are Welcome Here". By prohibiting landlords from inquiring about immigration status of tenants, you are preventing the harassment, racial profiling, and fear created when this discriminatory behavior is allowed. As an educator, providing safe homes to our families free of threat, you increase long-term positive educational outcomes for students. Student attention, willingness to try new skills, and confidence increase when they don't have to worry about their housing. Please pass this bill to promote safety for our students in Rhode Island. We in education can't do it all, and it's bills like this that support our entire education community. Thank you for your support!