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From: Quaranto, Elizabeth A. <equaranto_3858@email.ric.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 1:00 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee; SLegislation
Subject: Support of Protected Spaces Act

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Dear Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly,

I write to you today with both a heavy heart and a resolute voice in strong support of the Protected Spaces Act, [H5225](#) and [S507](#). As a proud student in the field of social work who works with populations in need, I have witnessed firsthand the resilience, sacrifice, and contributions that immigrant families bring to this country. America is a nation built by immigrants, yet we are at risk of turning our backs on the very people who have helped shape our communities, our economy, and our shared future.

The safety and well-being of children and families are at stake. Across Rhode Island, immigrant parents fear dropping their children off at school, seeking medical care, or practicing their faith because of the looming threat of federal immigration enforcement in spaces that should offer protection, not persecution. No child should have to live in fear that their mother or father may not return home at the end of the day simply for existing in a country that has historically championed freedom and opportunity.

This bill upholds human dignity and community trust. When families are too afraid to seek healthcare, schools struggle to retain students, and faith-based organizations cannot provide comfort and refuge without fear of intrusion, it does not make our state safer—it weakens the very fabric of our society. This bill will ensure that Rhode Islanders know that their schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, and public libraries remain true sanctuaries of support, free from unjust intimidation.

Furthermore, we must reject the dangerous tactics of fear and scapegoating that echo some of the darkest chapters in history. We have seen this before—demonizing, criminalizing, and targeting entire communities based on status or origin. We cannot allow history to repeat itself by normalizing actions that remind us of WWII-era policies, where entire groups were singled out and persecuted under the guise of national security. To do so would not only be an affront to our values but a betrayal of our moral responsibility as a nation that has long been a beacon of hope for those seeking a better life.

I urge you to stand on the right side of history and vote in favor of the Protected Spaces Act. Let Rhode Island set an example of compassion, dignity, and justice. Immigrant families are not threats; they are our neighbors, our friends, our colleagues, and, most importantly, they are human beings deserving of safety and respect.

Thank you for your time and for considering this critical legislation.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Quaranto