

Anabella Mayorga

From: Paul Pasaba <ppasaba@blackstoneacademy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 9:10 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Do the right thing -- vote for H5225

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of Woonsocket. I am writing to you today to express my support for H5225, the Protected Spaces Act. I support this bill because I am the son of an immigrant and a teacher at Blackstone Academy Charter School. All young people have the right to education, good health, and the chance to freely practice their faith. The fact that ICE has changed policy to now apprehend people at schools, hospitals, and churches makes these environments feel less safe for many Rhode Island young people and families. Because of these changes, many people will choose to keep their kids home from school, to not go to the hospital, to not find connection in their faith community.

The March 4th ICE apprehension of a parent on their way to drop their kids off at the Learning Community sent waves of fear throughout the community. Changes in ICE policy are already eroding public trust and causing negative outcomes in Rhode Island -- particularly among immigrants. Many of us are concerned about an emboldened ICE's actions; we hear in the news everyday about the current administration both making errors and openly defying judicial orders when carrying out enforcement actions. Regardless of documentation and status, non-white people and non-English speakers feel under threat.

Immigrant communities and communities of color already face many challenges and obstacles. Pushing us further into the margins of society is wrong, and will have significant negative effects in the years to come. Please vote for this bill, and help make sure that no one has to experience fear when going to school, seeing a doctor, or observing their religious faith.

Sincerely,
Paul Pasaba

