



April 10, 2025

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island and our 38 member organizations, I ask this Committee to **oppose House Bill 5663**, requiring state law enforcement agencies to honor all detainer requests from DHS and ICE.

We have heard from the Chief of Police, how many Rhode Islanders refuse to cooperate with police because they are afraid they will be deported. Although you do not experience it every day in the same way immigrants, black and brown people, experience racism, I ask you to keep in mind the continuously reported cases of racial profiling. Just this year, black and brown kids in Kennedy Plaza were reportedly harassed by ICE agents. Racial profiling is a reality we live in, and I hope this Committee understands this.

Let's keep what works best. Direct collaboration between police and ICE hurts the safety of all Rhode Islanders. Current ICE tactics already confuse people that ICE agents are State or local police officers. These tactics include (according to verified reports by the grassroots AMOR) claiming they are police investigating a crime and need your cooperation, and wearing vests that say "POLICE", without any clear signal that they are ICE agents.

We urge this Committee to **oppose** this legislation to ensure Rhode Island is a safe state for all its people.

Sincerely,

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## **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