

April 10, 2025

Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chair, Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee  
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for HB 5724 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Detention for  
Federal Civil Immigration Violations

Dear Chair Craven,

As a Rhode Island resident, I write in strong support of House Bill 5724, introduced by Representative Giraldo, which would prohibit state or municipal agencies from entering into or continuing contracts to detain individuals for civil immigration violations and would prohibit the use of public resources to detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations.

The Wyatt and similar detention facilities have long neglected the rights of those detained there. At the Wyatt, people detained there have suffered from medical neglect, unsanitary conditions, and punishment for filing grievances. Private contractors who operate these facilities should not be able to profit from detention of our community members and contributions of our tax dollars. As the federal administration increasingly targets documented and undocumented immigrants, Rhode Island and private contractors who operate the Wyatt should not participate in this abhorrent practice or benefit financially from this increased detention.

In this increasingly fraught economic time, our governments should invest in our communities and our residents, rather than in practices that would harm us.

I strongly encourage this committee to pass HB 5742.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Steinberg