

PVD

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Hon. Robert Craven, Chairperson, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
et al. Sitting Committee Members, Rhode Island General Assembly

Amnesty International USA Local Group 1016

ITEM: H5724

POSITION: SUPPORT

To The Chair & Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for considering House Bill 5724, which seeks to respond to community demands for the closure of federal immigration detention facilities in our State.

To have an ICE facility in any of our towns or cities should be morally repugnant to anyone who believes in human rights, Constitutional rights, or the separation of powers. These facilities stand for the very worst intentions of the current federal executive administration. So many in our state consider these intentions anathema to our community standards. Every day we allow them to remain open is a direct insult to every single person in the adjoining communities, and all people of conscience in our State.

Across the country, these facilities have a record of human rights abuses against detainees. Our facility in Central Falls is no different. Just two weeks ago, detainees reported on conditions behind the walls at the Wyatt; if anything even remotely near the conditions of these claims were to be taking place, every leader in our State would have a duty to intervene.

Now is the time. Stand up to one piece of an unaccountable and dangerous network of agencies which are being weaponized against plural, civil democracy itself. Do it while you still can.

Amnesty PVD strongly urges the committee to consider this bill favorably and immediately send it to the House floor recommending passage.