

Roberta DiMezza

From: good ship fun ship <goodshipfunship@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:10 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony for HB 5724

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Testimony in Support of HB 5724:

I am writing now to support the passage of HB 5724. I am outraged by the dehumanization experienced by people detained at places like Wyatt Detention Center, and I would like to issue a clear notice and support that for myself and the people in our community, the contract with the Wyatt Detention Center is a moral, economic, and cultural outrage.

No city should rely on prisons and detention centers as forms of economic development—which is a failure, as Wyatt is a financial burden to the city of Central Falls.

Wyatt has also demonstrated a gross history of medical neglect and unsanitary conditions. Wyatt's failure to provide communication access to the people in the center leaves people isolated, unknown, and uncertain. And more so, it leaves people outside the facility also isolated and without knowing what is happening. Furthermore, the capacity of the Wyatt is being stretched, and should absolutely take no more individuals, let alone continue to operate. As of February 24, 2025, 111 people were detained by ICE at the facility, which board members described as "at capacity." (Source: Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation Minutes, February 24, 2025, p.1)

Furthermore, the prison administrators subject the people detained at the Wyatt to racist and anti-immigrant ridicule, which is so utterly unacceptable, a stain upon the reputation of Rhode Islanders.

Even in the context of detainment centers, The Wyatt facilities are utterly contemptible, racist, incompetent, and discriminatory. The individuals therein have no recourse to communicating grievances without fear of reprisal. In 2020, when 60 detainees at the Wyatt launched a hunger strike, the Wyatt staff retaliated by cutting off phone access and placing people in isolation. The long history of neglect at the Wyatt is outstanding and unacceptable.

All in all, ICE Detention facilities conflict with the values of our greater Central Falls and Rhode Island communities. Along with many others from our community, I wholeheartedly denounce the Wyatt and plead with our legislators to *do something*. House Bill 5724 is an example of such *something*, and I echo everyone else's sentiments when I ask legislators to pass this legislation and ban ICE detention facilities out of Rhode Island.

Thank you
E. Nielsen
Providence, RI, 02906