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From: E Z <zahniser.ellen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 10:41 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Pass House Bill No. 5724!

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To the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ellen Zahniser and I am a resident of Providence. I am writing to ask you to please pass House Bill No. 5724; it is past time for our state to stop participating in inhumane immigration detention practices.

Our current system of immigrant detention, as represented by the Wyatt, is utterly unacceptable. Not only is the Wyatt a financial burden to Central Falls, it is a site of horrifying medical neglect and shockingly racist abuse. Time and time again we hear from those inside the Wyatt of the unsanitary conditions and disrespect for medical needs, blatantly racist treatment from administrators, and lack of access to communication with the outside world. I also understand that those held inside the Wyatt have received threats of harm in response to communicating valid grievances. I am horrified by the existence of the Wyatt and the damage that is done within its walls.

As a state that thrives *because* of our incredible immigrant population, it simply makes no sense for us to participate in ICE Detention. Private companies must not be allowed to profit off of the suffering of our valued community members. It is embarrassing for Rhode Island to be so behind in this arena - we can do the right thing and follow other states that have passed laws like this one!

Please pass House Bill No. 5724.
Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

Best,
Ellen Zahniser
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