

Written testimony in support of House Bill 5724

Dear members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to urge the passing of House Bill 5724, prohibiting new or renewed agreements that will be used to detain individuals for federal immigration violations. It is time for our state to stop harboring companies that imprison, neglect and humiliate people, and separate and impoverish families, for profit. I don't want Rhode Island to be a place where such companies can do business, especially when they are engaged in at best dubiously legal detention of legal permanent residents within our state. RI should be unwelcoming to those who get rich from suffering.

The new federal administration has indicated its desire to build more and more camps and prisons for the people--many of them, judging by recent news stories, legal residents and those who have committed no crime--whom it intends to criminalize and detain. They want to spend \$45 billion to expand immigration detention. While this committee cannot stop that \$45 billion dollar allocation, what you all can do is make it harder to build those facilities. Keep the facilities out of RI, and urge other states to do the same. Please take this opportunity to block them in our state and send a strong message that they are unnecessary anywhere.

Sincerely,

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