



April 10, 2025

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island and our 38 member organizations, I ask this Committee to support House Bill 5724, prohibiting state and local government officials from entering into or renewing agreements to detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations. This bill ensures that Rhode Island does not use public resources to support or expand an inhumane system of civil immigration detention.

Across the country and here in Rhode Island, we have seen the devastating effects of detention practices—particularly on immigrant families. Parents and children have been forcibly separated, and individuals held at the Wyatt Detention Center have reported being denied essential medical care, including treatment for chronic conditions and access to vaccines. These practices do not align with our values of compassion, fairness, and human dignity. Corporately run detention centers are driven by profit, not care, and have a record of prioritizing filled beds over basic standards of health and safety.

Rhode Island must not be complicit in systems that rely on the suffering of immigrants to function. By passing H5724, we can ensure that our state takes a clear stand against the incarceration of individuals for civil immigration matters. We urge the Committee to support this legislation and help make Rhode Island a leader in advancing equity, justice, and humane policy.

Sincerely,

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c/o Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island
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THE IMMIGRANT COALITION OF RHODE ISLAND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island (ACLU RI)
AMOR: Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)
Center for Justice RI
Coalition for a Multilingual RI (CMRI)
Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO)
Conexión Latina Newport
Connecting for Children and Families
DARE: Direct Action For Rights And Equality
Diocese of Providence
Dorcas International Institute
Economic Progress Institute
Elmwood Avenue Church of God Refugee Relief
First Unitarian Church of Providence Sanctuary Group
Fuerza Laboral
International House of Rhode Island
KIDS COUNT RI
Latino Policy Institute
New Bridges for Haitian Success
Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA)
Olneyville Resilience Hub
Oasis International
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Progreso Latino
Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM)
Refugee Dream Center
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV)
RI Coalition for Children and Families
RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty
RI State Council of Churches
RWU Immigration Law Clinic
RWU Pro Bono Collaborative
Sisters of Mercy
Sojourner House
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
The Jewish Alliance of Greater RI
The Liberian Community Association
Truth in Immigration Project