

Anabella Mayorga

From: Kate Jones <katejones86@gmail.com>
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Hello!

My name is Kathryn Jones, and I am a constituent of Rep. David Morales, living in Mount Pleasant area of Providence RI. I am asking that this be presented as Written Testimony to the House Committee at the hearing today, and that it be on record that I am asking the Committee to vote in support of HB-5724. I am all for prohibiting the state of RI (and any municipality within it) from engaging in contracts to detain individuals for civil immigration violations, ending any such contracts by July 1, 2026 (though immediately would be best) and prohibiting using public resources to detain these individuals.

It is so important that this bill gets passed, especially in this moment, as the violent, inhumane ICE crack downs at the behest of our current administration are running rampant. So many of our community members (and families!) here in RI have been put in danger by the existence of these ICE detention facilities and immigration enforcement in general (and again, especially in this current moment - we should be protecting these vital members of our community and upholding their humanity and dignity- not putting their lives in danger. No city or state should rely on detention centers as a form of economic development. The Wyatt, an ICE facility in Central Falls, where many community members have been and are being held, is has a notorious history of medical neglect as well as unsanitary and inhumane conditions, not to mention the fact that it is a financial drain on the city of Central Falls. It also has a retaliating against those incarcerated there with punitive measures if they share about grievances they have with how they are being treated.

Something like 10,000 Rhode Islanders marched this past weekend in Providence to show solidarity in the face of rising fascism here in the US at the hands of our current administration and the message was clear- we want to protect our community members here. Listen to your constituents - these facilities and connections with ICE in RI were already in place before January, and we can put an end to these anti-immigrant practices now and in the future. Protect immigrants and our community!

Thank you!

Kathryn Jones
Providence, RI
02908

Sent from my iPhone