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Member Agencies

Blackstone Valley
Advocacy Center

Domestic Violence
Resource Center of
South County

Elizabeth Buffum
Chace Center

Women's Resource Center

Task Force

Sisters Overcoming
Abusive Relationships

Affiliate Members

Center for Southeast Asians

Crossroads Rhode Island

Family Service of Rhode Island

McAuley Ministries –
McAuley Village

Progreso Latino

YWCA Rhode Island

To: Representative Robert E. Craven, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee
Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Lucy Rios, Executive Director
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: April 10, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill 5724

On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence appreciates this opportunity to express our **support for House Bill 5724**. This bill would prohibit state and municipal officials from entering into and renewing any agreements that will be used to detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations. It would also prohibit state and local leaders from leasing their public real estate for use as an immigration detention facility.

Across the country, nearly 50,000 individuals are being held in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention, 21,630 of whom were booked in February 2025.¹ While many cities and state agencies in Rhode Island have resisted federal anti-immigrant policies, racist and xenophobic shifts happening nationally heighten fear and harm our immigrant communities.

Immigrant survivors exist at the intersection of interpersonal and state violence, with research suggesting that rates of domestic violence among immigrant communities are higher than the general population.² A survivor experiencing violence is less likely to access public supports if there are heightened risks that their documentation status or that of their partner may be threatened.

Policy efforts like HB 5724 that recognize the harms of immigration detention demonstrate that our state is committed to defending safety and justice for every community. This commitment builds public trust and empowers survivors of violence, regardless of immigration status, to connect with resources.

As anti-immigrant forces swell at the national level, our state has the power to invest in smart policy solutions that enhance stability for immigrant populations in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

¹ Syracuse University. (2025). Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse: Immigration Detention. <https://tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts/detention.html>

² Morrison, A. M., Campbell, J. K., Sharpless, L., & Martin, S. L. (2024). Intimate partner violence and immigration in the United States: a systematic review. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 25(1), 846–861. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380231165690>