

4/10/2025

**Roberta DiMezza
Committee Clerk**

Hello,

Please note my support - as a Rhode Island resident and lifelong New England community member - to HB-5724. No city should rely on prisons and detention centers as a form of economic development, and to do so would show a flagrant disregard for (and conflict with) the values of a community with a massive immigrant population. Regardless of how one feels about the presence of immigrants, legal or not, the Wyatt detention center is a financial burden to the City of Central Falls and allowing the use of RI prisons for ICE detention centers does not reflect the values, needs, or desires of the RI community.

Recent ICE crackdowns are severe and appear to be wildly unsupervised - several US citizens have been detained despite having identification verifying their legal status. Green card holders are being detained and deported without sufficient justification. ICE is making mistakes and overreaches frequently. Americans are being harassed and racially profiled. HB-5724 would distance the State of Rhode Island from the web of culpability that is sure to arise as this issue continues.

With Wyatt's history of appalling neglect, poor conditions, and administrative misbehavior and retaliation against detainees, it is not wise to take on further risks by allowing IGSA contracts given recent national issues. Combining the poor history of Wyatt with recent ICE crackdowns is sure to lead to shameful human rights violations in our state for the sake of profit.

Rhode Island deserves to create a community free of exploitative and inhumane immigration detention practices. HB5724 reflects the desires of myself and my community to live somewhere that does not trade crucial community values for economic development.

I strongly support HB-5724. Thank you.

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