



Hon. Representative Craven
Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee
Members of the Senate Commerce Committee

RE: Support for House Bill #5724

(RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DETENTION FOR FEDERAL
CIVIL IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS)

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I write to you as Co-Chair of the Rhode Island Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (RIBLIA) Caucus in strong support of House Bill #5724. Today, our Caucus stands at the largest it's ever been with 21 members representing communities all over our state.

This year, the caucus is prioritizing 15 bills that reflect our unwavering commitment to defending the marginalized and ensuring a fair and equitable future for all Rhode Islanders. In alignment with this mission, the RIBLIA Caucus supports House Bill #5724 by Representatives Giraldo, Alzate, Potter, Morales, Stewart, Diaz, Biah, Tanzi, and Felix, which seeks to end public contracts with ICE and prohibit the use of any public resources to detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations.

The practice of detaining individuals for civil immigration violations, which are not criminal offenses, raises serious concerns about due process and human rights. By preventing Rhode Island from participating in such practices, this bill protects targeted communities from a system that too often results in prolonged and inhumane detention, legal ambiguity, and unnecessary separation of families. Moreover, this legislation recognizes the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between federal immigration enforcement and local governance. When local agencies are used to carry out federal immigration objectives, it can erode public trust in institutions that are meant to serve and protect all residents. Communities become less safe when individuals are afraid to report crimes, seek assistance, or cooperate with local authorities for fear of immigration consequences.

Members of the RIBLIA Caucus strongly urge passage of this bill. Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely,
RIBLIA Caucus Co-chair, Representative David Morales