

Ariana Costa

From: Celine Keating <keatingceline@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 4:19 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Please vote in favor of House Bill 7198

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Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 7198. The state of Rhode Island must do everything in its power to protect our immigrant neighbors and accord them the same protections as the rest of the population.

Currently the administration is using every conceivable tactic to make immigrants leave or be pushed out of our country. According to the ACLU, "most people who are charged with a misdemeanor do not actually get sentenced to, or serve, one year in prison. However, despite the actual sentence a person receives, because these crimes carry a potential prison sentence of up to one year, members of the immigrant community may be subject to detention and deportation under a federal law that addresses various crimes that have a potential sentence of one year or more. This means that a one-day difference in sentencing can be the deciding factor in whether a long-time Rhode Islander is able to stay with their family and community, or face the challenges of deportation."

Please observe the spirit of the law and decrease the maximum possible misdemeanor by one day. One day can make all the difference in someone's life!

Thank you.

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