



The Rhode Island State
Council of Churches

Rhode Island State Council of Churches and the Rhode Island Bible Society

Mr. Jeremy M. Langill
Executive Minister

March 4th, 2026

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The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

re: support for H7198

Dear Chairwoman Hagan McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Rhode Island State Council of Churches strongly supports H7198, legislation that protects our immigrant communities from the overly harsh consequences of federal law for instances of minor misconduct.

H7198 strikes a fair balance between the needs of justice and the egregious abuses that we are currently witnessing by federal immigration officers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Langill, Executive Minister

Joining the Council of Churches are numerous Rhode Island clergy listed below.

Rev. Aidan Kelley
Woodridge Congregational Church

Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Blackstone
United Methodist Church, East Greenwich

Rev. Kenneth Orazi
Community Church of Providence

Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay
First Unitarian Church of Providence

Ms. Jeanne DiPretoro
St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church

Rev. Trisha Thorne
St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Carol Wilcox
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Rev. Sam Lovett

Rabbi Preston Neimeiser
Temple Beth-el; RI Commission on Prejudice and Bias



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Rev. Lauri Smalls

Rev. Scott Spencer

Rev. Effie McAvoy

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church
Hearts for Social Justice

Pastor Todd Stange

Rev. Tracey Griffing

Rhode Island State Council of Churches

Rev. Janet M. Cooper Nelson

United Church of Christ

Angela McParland

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team

Rev. Caroline Webb Johnson