

To the House Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in support of House Bill 7360, the Protect Our Courts Act. This bill would prohibit the civil arrest of any person who is attending court either on behalf of themselves or a family or household member. This bill will help ensure the safety of Rhode Islanders to participate in the criminal legal system.

Without the protection from this bill, all Rhode Islanders are put at risk. The way the legal system works best is when all people have free and full access to the courts, and the promise of equal justice cannot be delivered if a portion of the community is afraid to access those courts. This would help prevent incidents like immigration agents arresting people going to and from court. If our community members don't feel safe going to court to testify as a witness to a crime or to report a crime, it makes everyone unsafe by letting criminals go unreported.

Please support H7360 and protect all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you.

Alex Denisevich