

March 3, 2026

To Chair McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to pass [H7360](#) to protect people attending Rhode Island court proceedings from civil arrest without a judicial warrant.

I'm sure you remember the incident in November when Superior Court Judge Joseph McBurney intervened when ICE agents attempted to take a court intern. Judge McBurney risked arrest himself. Had it been any of us defending that kid, things might not have turned out as well.

These are not normal times. In this country, our people should not be arrested without a warrant.

We are called to meet this moment. We must all do our part to preserve our democracy. But we, as non-legislators, can't make laws – we need you to do that on our behalf. And do it without delay.

When circumstances require it, the General Assembly can act expeditiously. You approved the funds to save Roger Williams and Fatima hospitals in less than two weeks.

ICE agents are circling our courthouses. I urge you to require that they have a warrant before taking people. This is not an issue to hold to the end of the session. Please act with the urgency that this matter requires.

Sincerely,

Kate McGovern

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