



S2045 | H7360

# PROTECT OUR COURTS ACT

This bill **protects individuals attending Rhode Island court proceedings** from being subject to civil arrest without a judicial warrant or order, **protecting access to the courts** and limiting interference with judicial processes.

**“Our courts cannot operate fairly and efficiently while ICE is allowed free access to detain anyone who frequents them.”**

Senator Meghan Kallman  
Representative José Batista

In January 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security rescinded prior “sensitive locations” guidance. Under current U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy, immigration arrests in or near courthouses are permitted at officer discretion.

This act will:

- Address the dangerous climate of fear that undermines both due process and the integrity of the legal system
  - Protect courts from interference that complicates their ability to ensure public safety
  - Holds violators accountable and ensures compliance with the law
  - Give all Rhode Islanders equal access to our courts without fear of detention & deportation
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