

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Victoria Restler. I am a proud Providence resident, parent of two school-aged children and a Professor of Education at Rhode Island College. I am writing to express my strong support for H7360 to protect people attending Rhode Island court proceedings from civil arrest without a judicial warrant.

This legislation establishes crucial limitations on civil arrests, ensuring that individuals can safely access the courts without fear of detention. This bill represents a vital step toward a fairer legal system by safeguarding due process, reinforcing the integrity of the judicial system, and guaranteeing equal access to justice for all Rhode Islanders.

This bill protects individuals seeking justice—as litigants, witnesses, or supporters of family members involved in legal proceedings—by preventing intimidation and unwarranted arrests. These safeguards ensure everyone can participate in legal proceedings without fear, regardless of their circumstances.

By passing this legislation, Rhode Island can ensure that all individuals—regardless of background or circumstances—can exercise their right to due process and access the courts without unnecessary fear or obstruction. I urge you to support this critical bill and uphold the fundamental principles of justice and fairness.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony and my recommendation to support House Bill 7360.

Sincerely,

Dr. Victoria Restler