

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Adelaide Dicken <adeles.lil.sis.adelaide@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 11:05 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB-7436  
**Attachments:** HB 7436 testimony\_Adelaide Dicken.pdf

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Hi Roberta,

Please find attached and copied below my written testimony in support of HB-7436 to prohibit municipalities from entering contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Thank you,

**Adelaide**, she/they

[adeles.lil.sis.adelaide@gmail.com](mailto:adeles.lil.sis.adelaide@gmail.com)

(+1) 301.467.9878

My name is Adelaide Dicken. I'm a resident of Cranston, and I'm here to support House Bill 7436 that would prohibit municipalities from entering contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

I support the bill because over the last ten years I've been an organizer in trans communities and too many of my friends, extended family, and community members have been separated from their loved ones because of the violence of ICE. I believe that our communities will be safer without the presence of any ICE contracts in our state.

Many states have already passed IGSA or intergovernmental service agreement bans, and Rhode Islanders have already demanded an end to the ICE contract at the Wyatt in 2019. It is past time to pass this legislation and make sure we never again contract with this rogue agency.

As we've heard from those who have spoken before me, the conditions at the Wyatt are inhumane and riddled with abuse. Some may ask what would happen to individuals who are detained if we don't have an ICE contract in our state. A common critique of this bill is that if it passes, lawyers won't be able to release folks on habeas corpus petitions because they will be transferred to Massachusetts.

But we know many individuals are already being transferred to Massachusetts, as well as other states in New England and to the South. Even though ICE has only 110 contracted beds, AMOR has received reports from over 400 folks in the last year, which shows that detainees are transferred quickly.

Does everyone who is detained have access to legal counsel to petition for habeas corpus? No. Not everyone has the means or resources to contact a lawyer, and the phone number provided at the Wyatt for pro bono legal services is reported not to work.

It's not okay to hold people in these conditions just so long as they are not transferred elsewhere. Transfers are a regular part of ICE activity across the country, and it's our responsibility to not contract with this vicious system of detention in Rhode Island while advocates around the country work to reign in abuses and ultimately abolish ICE.

We hope you consider these points in support of House Bill 7436 to prohibit contracts with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.