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From: Douglas Shepard <dshep27283@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:53 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: HB-7436

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Dear House Judiciary:
RE: HB-7436

ICE is not going after the worst of the worst, they are targeting people who are following the rules and anyone who has dark skin!

No city should rely on prisons and detention centers as a form of economic development nor punishment for immigrants by ICE activity.

- States across the country have passed legislation banning ICE contracts in their state/municipal prisons: Illinois (2021), Colorado (2023), Oregon (1987/2021), Minnesota (2023), and Maryland (2021). New England states such as New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York have proposed bills to shut down immigration detention in their states. Rhode Island can join them in creating a community free of exploitative and inhumane immigration detention practices.
- The Wyatt Detention Center is the only detention center that detains immigrants through its Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA), or federal-state contract, with ICE. This contract allows ICE to use state and local resources for detention, so prohibiting IGSA contracts would effectively eliminate immigration detention in the state of RI.
- On April 4th, 2020, 60 people detained by ICE at the Wyatt launched a hunger strike to demand safer conditions and their release amid the COVID-19 pandemic. How bad would it have to be to do that? The Wyatt staff responded by retaliating against the hunger strikers by cutting off phone access and placing people in isolation.
- The Wyatt has a continued history of neglect: in **2025**, detainees reported neglect to provide medications for conditions, including sickle cell and brain cancer, dirty water causing nausea and diarrhea, and sexual assault allegations.
- If we have the chance to shut down a detention center, we should take it. Detention centers like the Wyatt not only commit abuse against its detainees, but also provide ICE with the infrastructure to kidnap our neighbors. ICE can't do what they do without the cooperation of the prison and every private company involved. We need to take all opportunities to shut down the Wyatt.

Sincerely
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