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As a resident of Providence, RI, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2278 and House Bill 7436 to cancel the ICE contracts in RI detention centers, where they have been committing abuse and neglect for decades. As a child/adolescent clinical psychologist who works in a Providence-based school, I have witnessed the growing anxiety and sense of dread held by children who fear for their safety and the safety of their families due to the rampant abuses by ICE in our communities.

One specific example of these abuses involves a recent ICE incident in Providence, which traumatized both our students and school staff. On January 22, 2026, an armed ICE traffic stop took place just outside of our school. Several unmarked vehicles pulled over a car on Broadway. Armed officers got out of their vehicles and drew weapons on the car, yelling at its driver and attempting to break the window. The cars all then sped off down the side streets. As a school we contacted the police, thinking it was a police pull-over, only to learn the police did not have any information about the incident and suggested it might be ICE-related. Our school had no means of knowing whether the surrounding area was safe in order to allow students out of the building. Clinicians had to intervene with students and families who feared for their safety.

This is just one example of how state support of ICE contracts in our community leads to abuses not only in our detention centers, but on our streets. I implore you to support SB 2278 and HB 7436. Thank you.

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