

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Jennifer Brower <jennprou@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 10:37 AM  
**To:** edithajello@gmail.com; House Judiciary Committee  
**Cc:** Samuel Zurier  
**Subject:** House Bill No. 7436 Written Testimony

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Dear State Legislators,

I fundamentally disagree with detaining immigrants without a criminal history and without due process. Please pass House Bill 7436.

Abraham Lincoln knew that if we give up the principle of equality before the law, we have given up everything. If we grant legitimacy to the idea that there are people less equal for whatever reason, then all of us can only hope that the people in power do not decide we belong to one of the lesser groups. We need to protect the rights of immigrants, documented and undocumented as well as citizens.

Clearly, the United States needs to fix its immigration policy so that people who have lived in the United States for years and contributed to our country have a path to citizenship. We also need to be able to welcome more immigrants. Immigrants make this country stronger and more interesting. These changes are not occurring. The bare minimum we can do is close the Wyatt Detention Center so that Rhode Island is not contributing to the problem.

The Wyatt has a long history of medical neglect & unsanitary conditions. In 2025, medications were not provided to folks with brain cancer and sickle cell and many detainees were sickened by the unsanitary water. There have also been allegations of sexual abuse. It also has a history of punishing those who have protested these conditions by blocking phone privileges and putting them in isolation.

Rhode Island would not be alone. Illinois (2021), Colorado (2023), Oregon (1987/2021), Minnesota (2023), and Maryland (2021) have banned these facilities.

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.

ICE detention conflicts with the values of the community and the principles on which the United States and Rhode Island were founded.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Brower  
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