

Ariana Costa

From: E Z <zahniser.ellen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 12:26 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony submission - Pass House Bill No. 7436

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Hello,

I am emailing with written testimony in favor of House Bill No. 7436.

This change is long overdue - it is past time for Rhode Island to join the numerous other states (Illinois, Colorado, Oregon, Minnesota, Maryland) that have voted to ban ICE contracts and protect their citizens from the unfathomably inhumane treatment that we have come to see in places like the Wyatt Detention Center.

In my over 10 years as a resident of Providence, I have been consistently appalled to learn about the treatment of those detained in the Wyatt, from medical neglect to unsanitary conditions to retaliation against peaceful hunger strikers. I want this bill passed so that our state can be done with these exploitative and dehumanizing immigration detention practices.

Furthermore, it is not only unjust to rely on detention centers as a form of economic development, but, in fact, the Wyatt is a massive financial burden to Central Falls -- an economy that would be so much healthier with a tax-paying business on that property and without the stultifying fear and repression that the Wyatt imposes on the surrounding community.

I am proud that Rhode Island has this opportunity to do the right thing, and look forward to the prosperity and well-being that it will bring to our communities!

Thank you for considering my testimony!

Best,

Ellen Zahniser

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