



March 4, 2026

House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI

My name is Ingrid Mejia, and I am a case manager with AMOR. I am here to support HB-7436, a bill that would stop cities and towns from having contracts with ICE and end the use of state property for immigration detention.

Every week, we get calls from families whose loved ones are detained at the Wyatt Detention Center. Life has become harder and harder for these families. When the main provider in the home is detained, the family loses its main income. Very quickly, they fall behind on rent, bills, food, and other basic needs. Many families feel financially trapped and very stressed.

These are civil immigration cases, not criminal sentences. But people are still kept in detention centers for long periods of time. Families suffer from the separation, the fear, and the uncertainty about what will happen next.

We also continue to hear concerns about poor treatment and lack of proper medical care inside the facility. Families worry every day about the health and safety of their loved ones. No family should have to live with that kind of fear.

Immigrants are part of our communities. They are humans, workers, parents, and neighbors. They deserve dignity and fairness. People

should be able to fight their immigration cases from home with their families, not from inside a detention center.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to support HB-7436.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ingrid Mejia
AMOR