

Ariana Costa

From: Jeff Simmons <jsimmons0915@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:25 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan
Cc: Rep. Stewart, Jennifer A.
Subject: Support for H7436

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My name is Jeff Simmons, and I am a resident and voter in Rhode Island. I am writing today to express my strong support for H7436. I base my support for this bill on the below listed points.

1. The reputation of ICE/DHS and how it has/is handling immigration matters and detention has suffered because of the unprofessional, aggressive, and chaotic behavior of a number of its employees. The American public has been deluged with well documented occurrences of ICE/DHS agents detaining the wrong people, not honoring due process requirements, heavy handed and aggressive actions towards documented and undocumented immigrants, along with journalists and American citizens or anyone else they encounter. They have trampled on the Constitutional rights of many, and demonstrated attributes that show they are **not a trustworthy partner** to contract with. It makes no sense that the State of Rhode Island, or any local municipality or government agency would want to participate in a contract with a federal agency (or their Corporate partner) that is party to facilitating these actions. They have proven themselves to not be trustworthy.
2. The Wyatt Detention Center has been reported to have many issues related to the facility, how it is operated, and costs exacted on detainees that are being held there. This list of issues includes reports of not having sanitary conditions (i.e., unsafe drinking water), incidences of staff not providing adequate or timely medical support to the detainees, and racist and anti-immigrant ridicule directed at detainees. It is also reported that detainees are being charged for bottled water, food, texts/phone calls. This situation seems unconscionable to me, and should be ended as soon as possible. How does the State of Rhode Island, City of Central Falls or other community, or any reasonable person for that matter, allow it to continue?
3. I am opposed to prisons as “economic development” projects or “for profit” facilities. These types of facilities have a financial incentive to fill beds (or floor space as reported in some cases) which can lead to decisions regarding whether to detain someone potentially influenced by financial goals/objectives. These facilities also frequently do not provide meaningful economic or social benefit to the communities they are situated in, and actually can have a heavy cost on the community as a whole in the form of generating fear, and disrupting life for many. I believe the Wyatt Detention Center is a good example of this.

For all these reasons and many more I won't take the time to list here, I respectfully urge you to pass HB7436. Let's show the rest of the country that Rhode Island is a leader in treating everyone fairly and decently, and that we believe the federal government must follow all laws.

Respectfully,
Jeff Simmons

