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From: Jessica McCauley <jessicamccauleymhc@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 3:36 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 7436 Testimony

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March 1st, 2026

Re: Support of House Bill No. 7436

To whom it may concern:

I support the passing of House Bill No. 7436 which prohibits the state and municipalities from contracting to detain individuals for civil immigration violations. There are countless reasons I support this bill. I know that this country has never lived up to the rights and freedoms it has purported to provide to all. However, with the increase in ICE presence, violence, violations and detentions we have quickly slid in the opposite direction of the progress we had made. I have feared, and continue to fear, that we will end up like Nazi Germany, rounding up, mistreating and killing millions of immigrants, LGBTQIA + people and us, their allies. Like many people born after World War II, I wondered how other Germans, Europeans, etc. could have let that happen. And yet, here we are. We have our own version of Hitler in Trump and our own version of Jews in brown immigrants.

We have been told the plans to build more detention centers. We have been told the plan to allocate millions more to ICE. We need to stop this while we can, and one way to contribute to that is to prohibit such detention centers in Rhode Island.

This bill would include closure of Wyatt Detention Center, which has inhumanely treated the individuals detained there. They have been threatened with retaliation for sharing information about violations of their human rights. They have not gotten proper medical care. The treatment has been so poor that individuals have gone on a hunger strike in 2020 during the global pandemic.

I am opposed to for profit detention centers. As the goal of any for profit is to make money, by it's very nature these detention centers aim to detain more and more immigrants and refugees. We know that these places are not safe and that the people in them have done nothing to deserve to be there. Many groups of people have been detained by ICE: citizens, people who are here legally, people who were here legally until the Republican administration changed immigration laws. Even for those who are truly here without

documentation, this is only a misdemeanor and does not necessitate detainment. It is well past time that more people stand up against what these detentions truly are: a way for Trump and his followers to keep power and privilege in the hands of white men. This includes those in the administration who have shamelessly used the name of the brown Jewish Immigrant Jesus to support their crimes.

I do not want my tax dollars going to hurt people. I want my tax dollars to help people that are less privileged than me.

Thank you,

Jessica McCauley