

Roberta DiMezza

From: Kaeli Sutton <kaeli@opencircleri.com>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 5:06 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Written Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 7436

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[You don't often get email from kaeli@opencircleri.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Legislature,

I am writing as. RI business owner and resident, asking that you collectively support House Bill No. 7436, which seeks to prohibit the state or any municipality within the state to form any contractual agreements or to use public resources to detain community members for civil immigration violations. The bill also seeks to end any currently existing contracts by 7/1/26.

We are witnessing terrible violations of the rights of our community members in immigration detention throughout the country — including beatings, inadequate food and exercise, disease outbreaks, and record deaths. The majority of those in detention have no criminal record, are active within their communities, pay taxes and if in immigration court, have followed the rules of their immigration cases.

At the same time as the treatment of immigrants (and racially profiled Americans) is becoming more and more terrifying, the for profit private prison corporations (including GEO Group, Inc. and CoreCivic) being contracted by ICE and DHS are generating huge amounts of income — disgustingly turning the destruction of so many families and lives into a money making venture, and shamefully perpetuating the darker parts and abuses of American history.

I urge you to support HB 7436 and to follow the lead of the numerous states that have already passed or are attempting to pass legislation to ban ICE contracts in State and municipal prisons. This includes Illinois, Colorado, Oregon, Minnesota, Maryland, New Mexico (passed legislation) and New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York (proposed legislation).

NO CITY SHOULD RELY ON PRISONS AND DETENTION CENTERS AS A FORM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Please help rid the state of Wyatt and protect our communities from any future ICE or federal contract.

Sincerely,

Kaeli Sutton (she/her/hers)
Director

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.opencircleri.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7CHOuseJudiciary%40rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com%7C3e10a7d655bc45571c8108de78a7dc5e%7C9fe6112ca456463789dc0f284ceffc66%7C0%7C0%7C639080859524079191%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIslAIiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOljoiTWFpbGlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2jzf6QQ7acPI5%2F%2Fs58%2FxDkiWKd%2FDhpD6qEXHYwzqtMs%3D&reserved=0>
kaeli@opencircleri.com
401-338-5466

