

Ariana Costa

From: Nadia Gonzales <nadia@amorri.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:10 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony bill HB 7436

You don't often get email from nadia@amorri.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

My name is Nadia, and I am a community organizer working directly with immigrant families here in Rhode Island.

I am here today to strongly support Bill HB-7436, which would help end ICE detention in our state.

Every month, I organize community workshops about labor rights, mental health, and immigrant rights. And what I see again and again is this:

constant fear.

Fear of going to work.

Fear of going to the doctor.

Fear that a simple traffic stop or a phone call could lead to a family being separated.

Immigration detention is not an abstract issue for our communities. It is a real and painful reality. It breaks families apart, leaves children without their parents, and pushes hardworking people into anxiety, depression, and silence.

The people at risk of being detained by ICE are not a threat to our communities. They are the ones who clean our hospitals, care for our elders, prepare our food, and work in construction, factories, and other essential jobs.

As a community organizer, I also see the impact on mental health. When our government allows detention to continue, it normalizes trauma. It sends a message that some lives matter less than others.

Rhode Island can and must be a state that protects its communities, not one that supports systems that punish migration and poverty.

Today, I ask you to listen to the families who live here, who contribute here, and who call this state their home.

Passing HB-7436 is an opportunity to choose dignity, safety, and humanity.

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill HB-7436 and help end ICE detention in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and for listening to our community's voice.