

Testimony in Support of H 7436
House Judiciary Committee
Submitted by Roopa Duvvi
March 4, 2026

Honorable Members of the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 7436, which prohibits state or municipality contracts to detain individuals for civil immigration violations, and ends any such existing contracts by July 1, 2026.

I write to you as a House District 8 voter who is horrified by the violence experienced by people incarcerated at the Wyatt Detention Center. I have lived in Providence since 2019 and have learned about a number of the Wyatt's abuses during that time. Detainees have been denied treatment for sickle cell anemia and brain cancer, given unsanitary water, and prevented from communicating with loved ones on the outside.

I write to you as a first year medical student at the Warren Alpert Medical school who is strongly considering staying in Rhode Island to train and practice as a primary care provider. I care deeply about supporting the health and safety of Rhode Island communities. Ending immigration detention in the state is essential to doing so. As federal deportation efforts escalate, and we watch our neighbors get kidnapped and disappeared, I urge my legislators to help dismantle inhumane immigration detention practices however they can. Please take action and vote yes on H 7426.

Sincerely,

Roopa Duvvi