

Re: Testimony in support of Senate Bill H8328 and H8347

Dear Chairperson and members of the House.

I am Lupe from District 1, I am part of SCIJ.

I support Senator Lombardi bills H8328 and H8347

I support this bill because, as a college student in Rhode Island working with SCIJ, I have seen firsthand people be detained by ICE agents. The bill would prohibit municipalities from entering into contract with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The use of detention and incarceration to criminalize migration is inhumane and does not make our communities safer. As well, the access to virtual hearings has been an existing infrastructure that was implemented during COVID and would allow individuals who are at risk of being wrongfully kidnapped by ICE agents to feel safer. Going to the courthouse and the presence of ICE do not keep anyone in our communities safe.

ICE in Rhode Island has a history of putting our communities at risk by causing car crashes and even the death of individuals at the Wyatt while in ICE custody. The Wyatt is a larger reminder of ICE's presence in Rhode Island and a continued strain on our communities. The facility does not pay property taxes and has continued reports of medical neglect, unsafe conditions, and inhumane treatment.

ICE is a danger to all in Rhode Island.

I urge you to vote in favor of bills H8328 and H8347

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak in favor of bills H8328 and H8347. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lupe.