

Roberta DiMezza

From: Alicia <asjoo523@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 2:57 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony in favor of RI HB8328

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Dear members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in favor of RI HB8328. Virtual courts are not only important for accessibility of individuals with court appointments, but crucial to the safety of countless community members in Rhode Island. I have personally witnessed multiple assaults and kidnappings by ICE agents happen around Garrahy courthouse and the Superior courthouse. These incidents are traumatizing to the community and makes countless individuals around the area fear for their safety. ICE has been targeting and kidnapping people around the courthouses for over a year. Individuals should not fear for their safety, their families, and their immigration status while attending to their legally required proceedings. ICE is terrorizing the entire community, targeting individuals, stalking neighborhoods, and inflicting violence in the form of car crashes and physical assaults. We know that virtual court proceedings are possible from the remote coordination that occurred during COVID. The same infrastructure can be used and improved upon. The online form currently available to request virtual court hearings is not enough to address the urgent safety of our community. Virtual courts must be a guaranteed right available to all individuals who need it. People should have the security that they can participate in legal proceedings virtually with no penalty or challenges.

The community has acted swiftly to form an emergency hotline and coordinate court accompaniment to and from courthouses for individuals fearing for their safety from ICE. It is time that the legislature step up and take definitive action to protect the Rhode Island community from ICE.

Sincerely,
Alicia Joo 02906