

4/8/26

Dear Committee Chair Hagan McEntee and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I am a Rhode Island voter urging you to support **H 8328**, permitting all RI courts to conduct hearings remotely, with the same legality as in-person court appearances.

At this time in America, we find ourselves in the unthinkable situation of ICE being sanctioned as a lawless enforcement arm of Trump's administration.

Since 2025, RI immigrants have been witnessed being unconstitutionally detained by ICE at RI courthouses, being profiled and denied due process.

I was present outside RI Superior Court on Nov 20, 2025, when a teenaged intern was targeted by ICE at the court. I watched his attempted abduction occur in real time on S. Main St., shocked and appalled. He was lucky enough to have a judge advocate for his release. We know this would not be the case for most of our immigrant neighbors who could be at risk for ICE detainment when attending routine court proceedings.

I think many Rhode Islanders do not believe ICE is here in RI, or have much awareness that ICE is actively targeting people in our neighborhoods and courts, forgoing due process, wreaking havoc on families. Many believe it is happening only in other states highlighted in newsclips.

The RI ICE Alert Channel and Deportation Defense networks document and bear witness, telling the true story and bringing home the reality that this is happening daily in our state. We need to fight it now.

This bill H8328 is one way to preemptively instill extra protection at the state level against federal ICE overreach, by way of having the option of remote court hearings in RI.

As our state legislators you must act now to protect immigrant community members from risk of abduction at court by federal ICE/ CBP agents. I urge you to support and move bill H8328 forward.

Sincerely,
Cindy Capra
Barrington, RI