



April 9, 2026

Dear Chairwoman and Committee Members,

My name is Juan Pablo Ocampo and I'm the Coordinator for the Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island. On behalf of the Immigrant Coalition and our 44 member organizations, I ask this Committee to support H8328.

Currently, some courts allow remote hearings on the legal basis of administrative orders. However, because this is an administrative decision, this can change if leadership changes. This bill will make it law so that remote hearings are available to all Rhode Islanders.

Furthermore, this legislation would strengthen access to remote hearings for Rhode Islanders by requiring judges to state the reasons for denying a remote hearing request. There is no such requirement in any existing administrative order or rule that provides access to remote hearings at the discretion of the judge in that matter.

The violent arrests by ICE agents at or near courthouses have created an atmosphere of terror. Permanent residents, asylum seekers, undocumented, citizens, we are all fearful of being anywhere near courthouses. This bill is a way for you to do something to help us gain safety and justice.

The Coalition also asks you to support H8347. This legislation will protect constitutional rights by requiring judicial warrants and preventing unlawful detention based on civil immigration requests. It also keeps local resources local, by ensuring state and municipal funds are not used for federal immigration enforcement. Additionally, the bill clarifies that immigration status is not a crime. All of this will strengthen protections against the hateful criminalization of immigrants.

We urge this Committee to support these bills and stand with us on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Ocampo Sheen, Coordinator
c/o Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island
immigrantcoalitionri@gmail.com



**IMMIGRANT
COALITION
OF RHODE ISLAND**

THE IMMIGRANT COALITION OF RHODE ISLAND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island (ACLU RI)
AMOR: Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)
Center for Justice RI
Coalition for a Multilingual RI (CMRI)
Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO)
Conexión Latina Newport
Connecting for Children and Families
Crossroads
DARE: Direct Action For Rights And Equality
Diocese of Providence
Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County (DVRCSO)
Dorcas International Institute
Economic Progress Institute
Elmwood Avenue Church of God Refugee Relief
First Unitarian Church of Providence
Sanctuary Group
Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI)
Fuerza Laboral
International House of Rhode Island
Latino Policy Institute
Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island
New Bridges for Haitian Success
Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA)
Olneyville Resilience Hub
Oasis International
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Progreso Latino
Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM)
Refugee Dream Center
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV)
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
RI Coalition for Children and Families
RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty
RI State Council of Churches
RWU Immigration Law Clinic

RWU Pro Bono Collaborative
SEIU 1199NE
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sojourner House
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island
The Jewish Alliance of Greater RI
The Learning Community Charter School
The Liberian Community Association
Truth in Immigration Project