

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Jason Victoria Oconail <missyoc13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026 10:13 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** HB8328 support

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To whom it concerns,

My name is Jason Victoria Oconail; I'm a resident of Providence, RI (35 Princeton Ave 02907). I'm writing to support HB8328 and demand that virtual courts be offered at every court in Rhode Island to prevent ICE from unjustly kidnapping our community members at courthouses.

ICE has a history of terrorizing schools, stalking people at courthouses, and murdering community members. Their actions are always violent, and our immigrant neighbors need to be protected from them.

The infrastructure for virtual courts already exists; during the COVID-19 pandemic, all hearings were offered online to all Rhode Islanders. Family Court already frequently holds online hearings, and many lawyers have successfully requested virtual options for their clients in other courts. These measures must be made available to prevent the abductions that are happening every week. Last year, the city of Providence passed a law allowing a virtual option for all city courts; we need this at all courthouses in the state.

ICE recently came to the Cranston Municipal courthouse to try to kidnap a community member. Two weeks ago, they came to the Garrahy courthouse 4 times in one week. We have seen ICE enter a courthouse chasing after people and injuring them, kidnapping teenage court interns, and kidnapping people outside their homes while they're on the way to court. Court will never be accessible if community members must constantly risk deportation to leave their house. The new form that Chief Justice Suttel introduced is not sufficient—all of the aforementioned sightings as well as several kidnappings occurred after that form was introduced.

Having virtual courts is just the first step. There has been over a year of brutal, horrific and very public courthouse kidnappings. The proposed law would be a significant improvement in protecting our state's residents, but it's not enough. The people of Rhode Island demand an end to ICE terror in our entire state, not just at the courthouses. I urge the state of Rhode Island to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that all of our state institutions - not just our courthouses - are not helping ICE destroy our state.

Sincerely,  
Jason Victoria Oconail