

Roberta DiMezza

From: judy Ortman <jbortman@aol.com>
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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: To: Subject: HB: 7198, 7360, 8328, 8140/7436, 7211, 7202 In Favor

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Dear House Judiciary Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Judy Ortman. I moved to Rhode Island about 12 years ago because I loved the welcoming atmosphere, the natural beauty and the opportunities offered to me upon my retirement. I am an active volunteer at two Food Banks and have become very involved these last few years working on behalf of immigrants and refugees in our communities by volunteering at Dorcas AMOR and at my church, The First Unitarian Church of Providence. My husband and I sponsored an immigrant and her baby from Guatemala nine years ago. At that point, Rhode Islanders opened their hearts and doors to them. The mother is a hard worker whose efforts contribute to Providence, and her son is a successful 3rd grader. Unfortunately, even though they are here legally, their lives in Rhode Island have gotten considerably more tenuous under the Trump administration.

I am in favor of the following group of immigrant-related bills because I believe they serve to protect everyone's Constitutional rights which are under threat from the Federal government. ICE/CBP have been acting with impunity since January 2025, even murdering U.S. citizens who were exercising their 1st Amendment rights. All RI residents, citizen or not, are in danger from their actions. To protect ourselves and our immigrant neighbors we must strengthen RI legislation to ensure ICE/CBP follow the rule of law and be held accountable for their actions.

I urge you to do what you can to bring these bills to the full House for a vote:

1. The 364 Day bill (H7198) is important so someone is not deported for a misdemeanor offense. The following bills need to be presented to the full Senate for a vote:
2. Protecting our courts (H7360) is essential to protect every person's right to appear in court without threat of being detained.
3. Remote hearings (H8328), would go a long way toward eliminating the detaining of immigrants while lawfully appearing in court
4. (H8140/ restrict cooperation from state and local police from cooperating with ICE/CBP
5. HB 7436 prohibits the state from entering into or renewing contract for federal immigration detention such as the Wyatt Detention Center.

6. HB7211 requires ICE/CBP wear identification (name/badge number) and not mask their face.
7. H7202 would provide recourse for unlawful actions by allowing persons to sue immigration agents in RI State Court if they feel their constitutional rights have been infringed upon.

Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration regarding this package of immigrant-related bills.

Judy Ortman, Co-Chair
First Unitarian Church Sanctuary Working Group