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From: Kenneth Pariseau <kenpariseau@icloud.com>
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Subject: Writing in support of House Bill 8328.

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Good afternoon

I am writing in support of HB8328 which would provide virtual hearings for the citizens of Rhode Island who are currently under daily threat of being detained when they appear for scheduled court hearings. As a community member of Providence serving on the College Hill Deportation Defense Network team working around the courthouses; I have witnessed several incidents of ICE agents detaining citizens (always persons of color) going in or coming out of the courthouse.

The practice of ICE that I have observed on several is for several ICE vehicles to either be parked around the courthouse or to be driving in the area. When the citizen arrives for their hearing or is leaving their hearing, the cars and agents converge on the courthouse detain the citizen either on the grounds or after a brief chase. The detainment I have witnessed have involved aggressive tackles by several agents.

I know that the infrastructure and process for virtual hearing are available as they were utilized during the pandemic, and is in fact still used in a number of Rhode Island courts.

The behavior of ICE in Rhode Island communities and around courthouses is a pandemic; and needs to be responded to as such.

Please institute the availability of virtual hearings for citizens for all Rhode Islanders in all courthouse to both protect our citizens as well as the integrity of the judicial process.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sent from my iPad