

HB8328

I am testifying to demand Virtual Courts to prevent the unjust kidnappings of community members at courthouses. As a Rhode Island and Providence community member, I want ICE to go away and stop kidnapping innocent people! ICE's presence is a pandemic in our community and is contributing to systemic injustice and cruelty. If we want to take steps towards ending this brutality, we need to implement virtual court hearings. The infrastructure to do so already exists. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, all hearings and procedures were online, and to this day, Rhode Island courts often hold meetings online. These measures must be made widely available to all to prevent the abductions that are continuing on a weekly basis. This truly is an issue of accessibility. How are people expected to participate in the justice system if they are physically assaulted or abducted while they try to reach the court house? Online court hearings can keep our community safe during this dangerous time, just like they kept our community safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic. While this is just a first step, and Rhode Islanders are calling for a complete removal of ICE, it is an essential one to protect all of our state's people. Migrants are our friends, neighbors, essential workers, and more. Love your neighbor and help keep them safe.

Best,

Kiera D, writing about HB8328, a Rhode Island resident, for virtual court hearings