

My testimony to demand virtual courts in Rhode Island. HB8328

My name is Luca, and I am a resident of Providence, Rhode Island. I am testifying today to demand that Virtual Courts be permitted statewide. Allowing this will help protect members of our community from ICE's heinous and unconstitutional kidnappings.

Making this change will greatly improve accessibility and fairness in our legal system. At a time of extreme uncertainty and fear within the Rhode Island community, this amendment is imperative. People should not have to risk their safety simply to exercise their legal rights. Allowing virtual appearances ensures that our neighbors, friends, coworkers, and family members can access the courts without placing themselves in danger.

ICE has a documented record of civil rights violations, the unlawful separation of families, and the murder of innocent citizens. Given this reality, every precaution we can take to protect the safety and well-being of our community is one we are obligated to pursue. Permitting virtual court appearances is a straightforward, practical step toward that goal.

I urge you to pass this amendment. It is a small change that will have a significant impact. Our community is counting on you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Luca