

Roberta DiMezza

From: Nadia Gonzales <nadia@amorri.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 10:48 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of H-8328

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from nadia@amorri.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

My name is Nadia, and I am a community organizer working directly with immigrant families here in Rhode Island.

I am here today to support bill H-8328 because I have seen firsthand what happens when access to justice is not truly accessible.

In our communities, many people face impossible choices. Going to court is not just about showing up, for some, it means risking their safety, their stability, or even their freedom.

After what happened with the presence of immigration agents at the court, the fear is real. Some people choose not to attend their hearings because they believe that showing up could put them in danger. And when someone does not appear in court, the system moves forward without them. Decisions are made that impact their lives, their families, and their future, without them having the opportunity to defend themselves. That is not justice.

We also see other barriers every day: mothers who have no childcare, people facing medical emergencies, workers who cannot afford to miss a day of wages, or individuals with disabilities that make in-person attendance difficult.

Virtual hearings are not a privilege, they are a necessary tool to ensure real access to justice.

This bill does not require courts to approve every request, but it does create a clear, fair, and transparent process. It gives people the right to request a remote hearing, to understand why a request is denied, and to not be discriminated against for appearing virtually.

It also ensures that all constitutional rights are protected, including access to interpreters and necessary accommodations.

Most importantly, this bill makes into law something that can currently change at any time. Our communities need stability, not uncertainty.

Justice should not depend on whether someone can physically make it into a courtroom. Justice must be accessible to everyone, regardless of their circumstances.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support H-8328.

Because access to justice should never come at the cost of someone's safety.

Thank you.