

Testimony in Support of H8328

Dear Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of East Bay Citizens for Peace, I am writing in support of House Bill 8328, "An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Courts – Permitting Virtual or Remote Court Hearings." The act will protect Rhode Island residents who might otherwise be subject to unwarranted federal surveillance or enforcement actions before or after in-person court appearances by permitting remote legal hearings.

Across the country and right here in Rhode Island, federal immigration agents are targeting individuals who are complying with their legal obligations to attend court proceedings. The U.S. Justice Department recently admitted to a federal judge that it had repeatedly misled the court about the legal basis for arrests conducted by ICE at immigration courts. And in November 2025, ICE agents mistakenly arrested a high school intern at the Providence County Superior Court. This Bill will enhance virtual access to legal proceedings, allow people to meet their legal obligations without fear of exposure to unrelated federal immigration enforcement actions, and help promote trust in the justice system. Therefore, we urge you to support H8328.

Thank you!

Sincerely Yours,

Nancy Hood
For East Bay Citizens for Peace

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