

Roberta DiMezza

From: Rachel Kirsch <321rachelk@gmail.com>
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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony for HB8328 for virtual court access

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I'm testifying to support HB8328 and demand virtual court access for everyone in Rhode Island. The proposed bill is an important step in protecting our community from the unjust ICE kidnappings. At the courthouse, I've seen ICE camp out and wait for people who are trying to participate in the justice system. ICE idle their cars and create an atmosphere of fear for everyone around them. How can people be expected to appear for their court dates when they're scared of being taken - like a community member was a few weeks ago when looking for justice as a victim of domestic violence. Rhode Islanders have been putting in the work to look out for each other, and it's time legislation be put in place to support our community too.

I'm angry at the way ICE has been acting around our state and at our courts, and we need virtual court hearings made accessible to everyone now. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that we have the infrastructure in place to offer virtual court hearings to everyone across Rhode Island, and with the rampant, violent behavior of ICE, it is necessary that we build on this already existing infrastructure to make virtual court hearings widely accessible. As a Rhode Island constituent, I urge you to take this step to protect our community by passing bill 8328 for accessible virtual court hearings.

Sincerely,

Rachel - a concerned constituent of RI