

Ella Rae

Apr 7, 2026

House Judiciary Committee

Chair, Representative Carol Hagan McEntee

CC: Clerk, Roberta Di Mezza

82 Smith St

Providence, RI 02903

To the esteemed members of the committee,

I'm writing this testimony in support of Senator Lombardi's bill H-8347 to prohibit state and local police from sharing non-public information and using resources to federal civil immigration enforcement. Let this testimony also serve as support for Senator Diaz's bill H8328 which permits Rhode Island courts to hold hearings remotely and give individuals the right to participate using their video or phone.

Rhode Island already has the capability to provide remote hearings because they were offered during Covid-19. Individuals deserve to have their voices heard in court without fear.

Immigrants are our neighbors, our friends, and owners of some of your favorite restaurants. The immigrant community deserves our support in these unprecedented times. ICE has torn apart families and used brutal force on community members. This is an attack on humanity as a whole, not just the immigrant community. You've watched in the news as violence continues to harm everyone, including U.S. citizens. No one is trying to see our state seemingly condone these egregious behaviors.

I am a Community Organizer for the Student Clinic of Immigrant Justice (SCIJ) that mobilizes college students to advocate for the immigrant and assist with providing pro bono asylum application support. We work with immigration attorneys across Rhode Island to support community members. Our organization believes that the criminalization of migration is asinine and is an attempt to make individuals feel hopeless.

Our legislators should reflect the interests of the residents. Detainees have described being subject to racist ridicule and threats for communicating their grievances with the conditions of the facility. I don't want the police for the state I call home to play a role in facilitating this harm. Individuals with pending immigration decisions should be awaiting the result at home, not in prison. A partnership with ICE and local state police would not create better safety conditions for the community, 3 in 4 detainees have no criminal conviction.

I urge you to make the decision that you would be proud to tell your children, your friends, or your neighbors. Don't be blinded by hateful rhetoric and instead embrace compassion and the sentiments of your constituents. Think about the mark you would like to leave on the world.

We hope you consider these points in support of Senator Lombardi's legislation H-8347 that would prohibit state and local police from sharing non-public information and using resources to federal civil immigration enforcement and Senator Diaz's bill H8328 which permits Rhode Island courts to hold hearings remotely and give individuals the right to participate using their video or phone.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to demonstrate my support. .