

Jill Cataldi

From: Ryan McCarthy <rpmccarthy88@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:25 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support FOR Bills (H5749, H5750, H5751)

Dear Members of General Assembly,

My name is Ryan McCarthy, and I am a resident of the City of Providence.

I am writing to you today in order to demonstrate my support for three bills under consideration in the General Assembly: H5749, H5750, H5751.

These three bills are the bare minimum that could be done in order to improve the lives of many people living and working in our State.

For starters, the Wyatt Detention Center is truly a disgrace. The fact that FOR-PROFIT prisons are even allowed to exist in the 21st century is abhorrent, and the fact that we, as residents and taxpayers of the State of Rhode Island, are having OUR tax dollars siphoned off to support this disgusting practice is beyond comprehension.

Rhode Island doesn't need more prisons (whether State-run, Private, or some combination of the two). What we need is an investment in programs and infrastructure that benefits those who are at the highest risk for marginalization. We do not need more contracts with ICE. We need to stop wasting time, taxpayer money, and resources hunting down immigrants that are just trying to support their families.

We need to reimagine what public safety actually looks like, and frankly, renewing a contract with a FOR-PROFIT PRISON whose job it is to incarcerate immigrants is an inhumane practice and gross misuse of power. FOR-PROFIT prisons and their investors benefit directly from one of the worst aspects of our society. They are not concerned about safety, they only care about money.

It is a business, and it is unjust.

Their business is dependent on this entire perverse system continuing on. If they truly cared about society, they WOULD NOT EXIST. It is your responsibility to see that they don't exist in our State for much longer

That is why I am asking that you pass H5749, H5750, H5751.

The Wyatt needs to go. It's a blight on the State of Rhode Island and the City of Central Falls. I am asking you to please:

- Stop the state from allowing private or public-private prisons like the Wyatt.
- Stop incarcerated Rhode Islanders from being held in other states, and stop RI from holding people from out-of-state in RI prisons.
- Do not renew the contract that Rhode Island holds with the Wyatt Detention Center.
- Require unannounced safety inspections at the Wyatt twice a year until it closes (which should be the day that the CURRENT contract ends.

Please, do the right thing.

Thank you,
Ryan McCarthy, Providence.