

My name is Claire Lemire, I am a social services student at the Community College of Rhode Island, and I strongly support House Bill no. 7968.

Private detention facilities capitalize on the criminalization of immigrants at the expense of human rights and drain the resources of communities where these unjust prisons set up shop. The immigrant detention and bail system economy criminalize poverty. It is fundamentally unjust to lock up people who cannot afford, like the majority of Americans, high sums of cash or loans to secure the freedom they should be afforded until proven guilty.

As an American whose ancestors immigrated here to seek a better life for their family, I am appalled by my government's cruel and unfair treatment of my neighbors undergoing immigration proceedings. I urge you as my elected officials to listen to the voices of those directly affected by these issues and take this opportunity to protect the democratic rights of all Rhode Island residents by voting YES on HB-7968.