

April 9th, 2024

Cheyenne Woodrow - Lead Community Organizer

Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice

House Bill No. [7968](#)

Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice supports the banning of ICE Contracts with prisons and private detentions in Rhode Island. With the passage of this legislation RI can join other states in creating a community free of exploitative and inhumane immigration detention practices. The Wyatt Detention Center detains immigrants through its Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA) with ICE. By prohibiting IGSA contracts (that allow ICE to use state and local resources for detention) we would effectively eliminate immigration detention in the state of RI. This legislation would prevent private companies like GeoGroup and CoreCivic from stepping in to open up private detention facilities. We recognize that detention centers run by corporations and investors prioritize their profits and keeping beds filled over the humanity and rights of the people it keeps detained. This legislation would prevent RI from being a place where companies can open up factories of neglect and abuse.

Simply put, people navigating their immigration case should be able to do so with their loved ones and in community, not behind bars in immigration detention. The majority of people in detention have been living in the U.S. for years, have families here, and are established members of their communities. People seeking asylum often have strong community ties with loved ones waiting to welcome them to the United States. And for those that need support, they can access it through community-based groups that offer services to help people navigate their immigration proceedings

Sincerely,

Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice