

May 4, 2026

From: A. David Larson, East Providence, RI - Hearts for Social Justice

To: RI Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: **Support for S2045 - Protect our Courts Act**

Dear Chair LaMountain and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2045 which will protect people attending Rhode Island court proceedings from civil arrest without a judicial warrant, ensure court access, sets enforcement rules, and provides remedies for violations.

We must do everything possible to uphold the rule of law within our state. The federal government is attacking the rule of law by interfering with the business of the courts, particularly with respect to immigrants and refugees trying to follow the rules and appear for hearings regarding their refugee or citizen status. The Social Principles of my faith compels me to *provide concrete support, including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies*. In this case I am advocating for their simple right to appear for a scheduled hearing without fear of unwarranted detention and removal.

I urge the committee to move this legislation to the Senate floor recommending they vote for approval.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

A. David Larson (East Providence)

Co-Chair - Hearts for Social Justice RI

RI United Methodists in Action