



# Alimente

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TO: Senate Judiciary Committee  
Chair LaMountain and Honorable Members of the Committee  
**SUBJECT: SUPPORT (S2045, S2047, S2605, S2608, S2828, S2966, S2967) - RIBLIA  
Caucus Immigrant Protection Package**

My name is Jason Kashdan. I'm a registered dietitian and the founder of Alimente, an equity-focused nutrition and food policy strategy practice in Providence. I'm also a Ward 3 City Council candidate. I'm writing in strong support of the RIBLIA Caucus's 2026 immigration legislative package.

I'd like to offer you my professional perspective on the public health and nutrition security consequences of living under the threat of immigration enforcement.

My practice is grounded in structural determinants of health (SDOH). SDOH is a framework that describes how health outcomes are not only shaped by an individual's lifestyle (food, movement, sleep, etc.) but also by the conditions in which they live. Safety, stability, and freedom from fear are foundational to health. Chronic stress elevates cortisol, disrupts sleep, impairs immune function, and shortens lives.

Fear, right now, is everywhere in immigrant communities. Research from periods of intensified immigration enforcement consistently documents declines in expectant mothers seeking prenatal care, families participating in WIC and enrolling in SNAP.

The seven bills in this package address the structural roots of that fear directly. We cannot close the maternal health gap, reduce childhood obesity, or improve behavioral health outcomes if a significant portion of our population is living under conditions of chronic threat.

Rhode Island has always understood that our strength comes from our diversity. These seven bills ask us to live up to that value: by refusing to deputize local police as immigration agents, by removing arbitrary barriers to food and economic support, by keeping our courts accessible to all who need them, and by making federal overreach answerable under state law.

I urge the committee's support for the full RIBLIA Caucus package.

Sincerely,

Jason Kashdan, MS, RD