

**TO:** Senate Committee on Judiciary, RI General Assembly

**Testimony for Public Hearing May 5, 2026**

Senator LaMountain and Members of the Committee, my name is Rock Singewald and I live in Warren, RI. I am submitting this written testimony *in favor* of the following resolution and bills that are on the agenda for public hearing and discussion on May 5, 2026:

**S 2047** ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES

**S 2605** THE RHODE ISLAND FEDERAL CONSTITUTION DEFENSE ACT

**S 2608** THE RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

**S 2607** THE RHODE ISLAND CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT

**S 2045** PROTECT OUR COURTS ACT

**S 2278** DETENTION FOR FEDERAL CIVIL IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS

**S 2479** ICE OUT ACT

**S 2707** IMMIGRANT IMPACT TASK FORCE

**S 2967** LIMITATIONS ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION

**S 2488** BAIL BOND AGENTS

**S 2966** PERMITTING VIRTUAL OR REMOTE COURT HEARINGS

**S 3116** RESTRICTIONS ON STATE AND MUNICIPAL COOPERATION WITH CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

I witnessed the ICE raid in Warren, RI this past Veteran's Day, and I was appalled by the actions of the masked federal agents as they chased and grabbed a local worker from his car and took him away without a judicial warrant, leaving his disabled car in the middle of the street. The agents drove around the area for hours in a reckless manner and acted more like kidnappers than law enforcement officers as they told members of the community who were watching and filming that they didn't need a warrant to detain someone.

I believe the tactics employed in Warren and in other RI communities by immigration enforcement agents demand that we make a commitment to safeguard the rights and safety of all Rhode Islanders, regardless of immigration status, by upholding the fundamental principles of equal treatment, due process, and civil liberties under the law. I believe that to meet that commitment, the Bills listed above should be passed to make sure that agents cannot wear masks and must display identification, that detentions can only occur with a judicial warrant, that detentions cannot take place in court buildings, that there are legal pathways for accountability and remedies for violations of civil rights. In addition, we need to ensure that there can be no agreements with cities and towns for detaining immigrants for federal civil immigration violations and that state and local police are barred from joining federal immigration enforcement programs and from hiring former ICE agents, and that bail bond agents cannot engage in civil immigration enforcement. I think creation of an Immigrant Impact Task Force to help track and report on enforcement actions in RI would provide critical oversight of the civil rights protections for both immigrants and citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important issues.