ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

**TESTIMONY ON 25-H 5226,
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE
ORDER TO WITHDRAW CITIZENSHIP FROM CHILDREN BORN IN THE UNITED
STATES TO UNDOCUMENTED PARENTS**
April 10, 2025

The ACLU of Rhode Island supports this resolution which condemns President Trump's executive order withdrawing citizenship from people born in the U.S. to undocumented parents, commonly referred to as birthright citizenship.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution grants citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof." This Amendment has long been interpreted to provide citizenship to any person born in the U.S., regardless of the immigration status of their parents. President Trump's order would make it so that this provision only applies to a child born in the United States with at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Millions of people will be affected by this order. As of 2019, approximately 4.4 million American-born children under 18 were living with a parent who was undocumented.[1] That constitutes about 7% of all children in the U.S.[2]

This executive order would also reverse over 150 years of precedent and would remove the U.S. from a list of over 30 countries who allow birthright citizenship.[3]

When the government has the power to deny legal rights to immigrants, all of our rights are at risk. We urge the committee's support of this resolution and the symbolic message of solidarity it sends to all those born in this country with immigrant parents.

Thank you for considering our views.

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[1] https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/07/22/what-we-know-about-unauthorized-immigrants-living-in-the-us/
[2] https://www.nytimes.com/article/trump-birthright-citizenship-constitution.html
[3] https://www.nytimes.com/article/trump-birthright-citizenship-constitution.html