

Ariana Costa

From: Catherine <cate.van.amburgh@gmail.com>
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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Written Testimony in support of House Bill 5724

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the Rhode Island House Committee Clerk,

My name is Catherine Van Amburgh. I have lived and worked in Rhode Island for more than a decade, and I am writing today in support of House Bill # 5724 which would ban ICE contracts in Rhode Island.

There have been numerous overwhelming stories of ICE acting with impunity, and we owe it to ourselves to do whatever we can to stand up to their immoral and evil actions.

Why I support this legislation:

- No city should rely on prisons and detention centers as a form of economic development.
- The Wyatt is a financial burden to the City of Central Falls
- There is a gross history of medical neglect & unsanitary conditions at the Wyatt
- Wyatt fails to provide access to communication with the outside world
- ICE Detention conflicts with the values of a community with a massive immigrant population
- States across the country have passed legislation banning municipalities from using their prisons as ICE detention centers. 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. I 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.

Thank you for considering my written testimony in support of House Bill 5724. I urge you to do what is right and say NO to Immigrant detention in Rhode Island by passing House Bill 5724. Thank you.

Catherine Van Amburgh
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