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From: Jonathan Goldman <jgoldman@scijimmigration.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 8:00 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB-5724, Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jonathan Goldman, and I am the Executive Director of the Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice (SCIJ). Through our work training directly impacted students to advocate for immigrant justice, we have seen firsthand the harm caused by immigration detention. I urge you to support HB-5724 to ensure Rhode Island is not complicit in this inhumane system.

The Wyatt Detention Center is part of a cruel, unnecessary, and exploitative system that profits off the suffering of immigrants who have deep ties to our communities. Many of the students we train have loved ones who have been detained or fear the possibility of detention. Instead of supporting these harmful practices, Rhode Island should invest in community-based alternatives that uphold human dignity and keep families together.

Wyatt's long history of abuse—including medical neglect, unsafe conditions, and retaliation against detained individuals—makes clear that detention is not about public safety but about profit. These abuses are not isolated incidents; they are inherent to the detention system.

At SCIJ, we believe that no one should be locked up for seeking safety or a better life. People navigating their immigration cases should do so in the community, with access to legal and social support—not behind bars. Ending immigration detention in Rhode Island is a necessary step toward justice.

I urge the committee to pass HB-5724 and take a stand against the criminalization of immigrants.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Goldman | Executive Director
Pronouns: he/him/his ([What's this?](#))
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**** My working hours may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal work schedule. ****

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