

## Anabella Mayorga

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**From:** Merrill Schmidt <merrill994@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Support for H-5724

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good morning,

My name is Merrill Schmidt, and I live in Cranston, RI and work with high school students at a nonprofit organization in Providence. I'm writing in support of H-5724, which would create a statewide ban on contracts to detain individuals for civil immigration violations. I support this bill because I believe that detaining immigrants while they wait for their cases to be heard is inhumane and a form of cruel and unusual punishment. There have been many cases of abuse and neglect at the Wyatt Detention Center, and I think that we should take every legal action possible to stop these horrific practices. Profiting from unneeded suffering is immoral, and the state of Rhode Island should not stand for this cruelty. I hope that our state can publicly recognize the immense value of our immigrant communities and make every effort to protect immigrants, as we continue to face the harms unleashed by the Trump administration.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Merrill Schmidt