



Dear Governor Raimondo,

We write to you as Jews, immigrants, and allies who believe that we should welcome immigrants to our community. We believe that our society and economy are stronger when we embrace freedom for all people and enable everyone to contribute to their full ability.

We are deeply concerned with the cruelly inhumane policies of the Trump administration that are calculated to vilify and dehumanize those who come to our country seeking asylum and safety from persecution and violence. We are also deeply troubled by our state government's failure to offer more than lip service to the rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters.

As Jews, we are taught to never let anything like the Holocaust happen again. Today, we see immigrants scapegoated to distract from failed economic policies, the same way we have been scapegoated throughout history. We see families separated and children in cages, the same way our families were once separated and our children encaged. We see out-of-state banks profiteering from the suffering of others, just as companies once profited from the construction of cattle-cars, camps, and gas chambers. And we see our state government and many elected officials complicit in these policies, just as millions of good people in Nazi Germany made the decision to go about business as usual.

We must do as both the Torah and the Bible command: to welcome the stranger, for we know that we were once strangers in the land of Egypt. We know that this state and this country have been built by immigrants. We know that our diversity is our strength.

As our governor, you have the power to make Rhode Island true to the ideals of freedom and inclusion. You have publicly committed to stand with immigrants and oppose Donald Trump's immigrant policies. But thus far, as ICE has held people in horrid conditions right here in our state and your constituents were violently attacked by guards at a bank-controlled prison, we have not seen the bravery from you that our state deserves.

Now, as UMB Bank moves to bring in a national for-profit prison corporation to take over the Wyatt, you have another opportunity to do the right thing. You can demonstrate that you value the people of Rhode Island more highly than the financial interests of out-of-state investors. You can fulfill your obligation to stand up for our state's ideals, and to be a leader against bigotry, violence, and dehumanization.

We demand that you:

- 1) Publicly support legislation to close the Wyatt detention facility and ban private prisons in Rhode Island.
- 2) Do everything in your power to release all ICE detainees held at the Wyatt.
- 3) End all state and local collaboration with ICE in Rhode Island.

Other states, including New York, Illinois, Iowa, and California, have taken similar steps. Now it's our turn to lead again.

Rhode Island must recognize that division and hatred are tools of corrupt, self-interested politicians like our current president. They weaken us, morally and economically. We will not allow this to continue.

When we say "Never Again," we mean it. We need you to stand with us.

Sincerely,

Never Again Action, Rhode Island