

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB309 Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations

House Judiciary Committee

February 2, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I, Amy Burcham, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB309- Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations.**

A day after President Donald Trump took office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a new directive to its agents: Arrests at courthouses, previously restricted, were again permissible.

This directive has and continues to strongly discourage immigrants from attending court hearings, required immigration court proceedings, or check-ins with Immigration and Customs Enforcement that they had attended for decades.

The administration’s policy forces immigrants to choose between attending mandatory hearings and risking arrest or missing court and facing an automatic deportation order.

Any of us can imagine the heart-wrenching nature of such a decision on a family.

Courthouse apprehension, especially as part of a strategy to meet daily arrest quotas, threatens all immigrants indiscriminately. This policy, far from prioritizing those criminal elements the administration claims to be targeting, subjects the majority of law-abiding immigrants to the terror of being selected for on-the-spot severance from family and community, including the ability to discharge ongoing obligations to both.

This untenable choice has led to a surge in absenteeism, undermining the integrity of the entire immigration court system.

Other states are filing or have passed similar legislation similar to HB 309. HB 309 will help to protect the rights of all residents, and support the integrity of our judicial system.

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

Regards,

Amy Burcham