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**Written Testimony In Support of House Bill No. 7039,  
An Act Concerning Civil Immigration Detainers**

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is David McGuire, I am a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT) and I am testifying in support of House Bill No. 7039, An Act Concerning Civil Immigration Detainers.

In 2013, Connecticut improved community relations and increased public safety by passing the TRUST Act. The legislature recognized the importance of promoting cooperation between the police and immigrant communities, preventing racial profiling and protecting Connecticut law enforcement from liability. Today, we ask that you reaffirm the commitment made in 2013 and strengthen the TRUST act so that its practical operation meets intent of the legislation. Protecting immigrant from risk of detention under ICE detainers leads to increased trust of police by the immigrant communities and consequently increases public safety as it promotes immigrants to assist the police and report abuses without fear of deportation and discrimination.

Last year, federal courts held that local law enforcement agencies are not required to comply with ICE detainer requests. The Connecticut Department of Corrections (DOC) has limited their detentions based on ICE requests and provides procedural protections against wrongful detention. Governor Malloy extended this in 2014 by announcing that DOC would only enforce requests if a warrant accompanied it, and would not honor those requests based solely on non-violent crimes.

HB 7039 would provide clarity and extra safeguards. This bill will create consistency across the state, prevent wrongful detention by creating procedural protections, This is absolutely essential to continuing to build trust between police and immigrants by protecting confidentiality of immigrants. Please pass this bill.