



House Corporations Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 4, 2025

Re: In Support of House Bill 5562 - An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions -
Solicitation by Charitable Organizations

Dear Chairperson Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

My name is Kyle Bennett, and I serve as the Chief of Staff and Public Affairs Officer at United Way of Rhode Island. United Way has been a pillar in our community for nearly 100 years, working alongside nonprofits, businesses, and government partners to strengthen Rhode Island's social safety net. We provide critical funding to nonprofit organizations that serve our most vulnerable residents, supporting programs in education, financial stability, and housing.

I am here today to express United Way of Rhode Island's strong support for House Bill 5562, which would raise the audit threshold for charitable organizations. This legislation is crucial in ensuring that nonprofits, particularly small and mid-sized organizations, can direct more of their limited resources to serving Rhode Islanders in need, rather than incurring unnecessary financial burdens.

Currently, many nonprofits must pay upwards of \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a financial audit, even when their budgets are modest. These costs divert funding from mission-critical programs, such as afterschool learning, food security, and emergency assistance. Raising the audit threshold would alleviate this financial strain, allowing organizations to invest in direct services and better meet the increasing needs of our communities.

Rhode Island's nonprofit sector plays a vital role in our state's economy and social fabric. At a time when organizations are facing rising costs due to inflation and

Uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode
Islanders



increased demand for services, we must take action to ensure that regulatory requirements do not hinder their ability to operate effectively. House Bill 5562 is a commonsense measure that balances transparency and fiscal responsibility while providing much-needed relief to nonprofits across our state.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support House Bill 5562. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kyle Bennett
Chief of Staff and Public Affairs
Officer United Way of Rhode Island