

April 22, 2025

Re: In support of H6156 — House Resolution Creating A Special Legislative Commission To Study Educational Outcomes For Children In State Care

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the House Committee on Education,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF) and our forty-four member organizations that provide health, social, and advocacy services to children, youth, and their families, I write in **strong support of H6156**, the resolution creating a special legislative commission to study educational outcomes for children in foster care. Our thanks to Representative Casimiro for introducing this legislation.

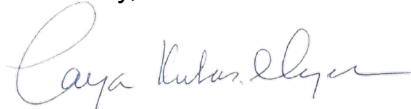
Children who enter the custody of the Department of Children, Youth & Families have already experienced significant trauma and disruption. Research shows they are more likely to change schools mid-year, repeat grades, require special-education services, and graduate at lower rates than their peers.¹ In Rhode Island, **more than 1,500 children are in state care**. Yet we lack a comprehensive, statewide picture of how these students are actually doing in school—and, most important, what targeted supports would help them succeed.

To strengthen this effort, we respectfully request that the commission include **one seat for the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families or its designee**. RICCF represents a broad network of providers directly serving children, youth and families and would bring real-time insights into educational challenges and promising practices across communities. Our inclusion would ensure that the experiences of providers as well as the children and families they serve inform the commission's analysis and recommendations.

We respectfully urge you to pass H 6156 and look forward to collaborating with the commission as it conducts its work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tanja Kubas Meyer
Executive Director

¹ Stable Placement, Stable School: Improving Education Outcomes of Children in Foster Care in Massachusetts | Massachusetts Court Improvement Program | March 2019.