

March 24, 2026

Good afternoon, Chairman McNamara and members of the Committee,

My name is Dana Borrelli-Murray, CEO of Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England- my home address 5 Berwick Lane Cranston.

At Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England, we serve about 4,000 girls each year in every zip code in RI, as well as our surrounding MA and CT communities.

Girl Scouts have been around since 1912. In 1950, we were chartered by the US Congress as a 'patriotic' civic organization. This charter is not taken lightly- it is something we reflect on and act on every single day, as we know that our work is to support the next generation of civic leaders.

This is reflected in our mission: growing girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

This bill matters because access matters. For many young people, school is the most consistent—and sometimes the only—place where they can learn about opportunities like Girl Scouts. When we remove barriers to access, we open doors to leadership, belonging, and real-world skill building.

Before coming to Girl Scouts, I spent 15 years working in urban education. I've seen firsthand that schools cannot do everything alone—and they shouldn't have to. Strong partnerships with trusted, mission-driven organizations are essential to helping young people thrive.

And I want to be clear—congressionally chartered organizations are different. We are nonpartisan, inclusive, and grounded in a long-standing public mission. Our goal isn't just participation—it's preparing the next generation of civic leaders.

House Bill 7894 helps ensure that more young people—regardless of background—have access to that opportunity.

I respectfully urge your support. Thank you for your time.

Dana Borrelli-Murray, CEO

Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England