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**Testimony on HJR 7225, Article 2, Sections 4 & 5**  
**Joint Resolution Making Appropriations For The Support Of**  
**The State For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025**

February 8, 2024

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

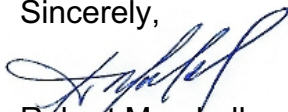
The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council would like to express our concern with the proposal to divert proceeds from the sale of state-owned group homes (presently designated to be deposited in the Information Technology Restricted Receipt account) to a newly established Group Home Facility Improvement Fund.

Recently, the BHDDH – Division of Developmental Disabilities has been concentrating significant funding on a new program to provide technology to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Early indications are that this has been very well received and has made significant improvements in the quality of life of those participating in the program. However, as we all are aware, technology is a quickly and ever-changing field so this should not be considered a one-time expense. It will need continued funding to enable the participants to continue to achieve their full potential.

Whereas, Group Homes are a residential service model which is being phased down and replaced with more community-integrated models of residential support.

We would suggest that instead of creating a new fund for the support of group home improvements that these funds continue to be deposited into the Information Technology Restricted Receipt account and designated for use by BHDDH-DDD to provide technology to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,



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