



Rhode Island Department of Human Services
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Office of the Director
Kimberly Merolla-Brito

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, 02903

Re: H5388 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Administration

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing to express my strong support for H5388, an amendment to RI General Laws § 42-11-13 that cites the appropriate revenue source for the Rhode Island Organ Transplant Fund. Below, please find additional information and context for the committee's consideration.

Current statute **incorrectly** states that revenues for the Organ Transplant Fund will derive from § 44-30-2.1, a law that refers to contributions to the U.S. Olympic Committee. The proposed bill, H5388, would correct this error and cite § 44-30-2.5 to assist families seeking support from the Organ Transplant Fund.

This correction will clarify the fund revenue source, improve transparency, and help ensure funds are available for families to defray costs associated with organ transplants. Importantly, this bill has no fiscal impact and there is no known opposition to this bill since it is a technical correction.

While the intent of the bill is straightforward, it is nevertheless an important correction to successfully manage the administration of the program that will be transferred to the Rhode Island Department of Human Services as part of the proposed FY26 budget.

As the committee reviews this legislation, I would also like to thank Rep. Alex D. Marszalkowski for his dedication to Rhode Islanders and for assisting DHS. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Merolla-Brito".

Kimberly Merolla-Brito
Director
Rhode Island Department of Human Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Alex D. Marszalkowski
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy