



RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT

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**Testimony Re: H-6072, Personal Income Tax –
Refundable Child Tax Credit
House Finance Committee
April 24, 2025**
**Leanne Barrett, Director of Early Childhood Policy
and Strategy**



Rhode Island KIDS COUNT coordinates the Right from the Start Campaign, a state policy coalition led by eight organizations to advance state policies and budget priorities that will help families with young children.

Both Rhode Island KIDS COUNT and the Right from the Start Campaign strongly support Rep. Tanzi's bill, H-6072, to create a new refundable state Child Tax Credit of \$1,000 per child.

The federal government established a Child Tax Credit in 1997 that has historically had bipartisan support and made a significant difference in lifting families with children out of poverty, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when it was temporarily made fully refundable and minimum earnings requirements were waived.

There are sixteen states that have created their own Child Tax Credit in addition to the federal credit, with most of these states making the credit refundable. Nearby states with Child Tax Credits include Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.

Child Tax Credits are an effective tool to bolster the economic security of low- and middle-income families and position the next generation for success. They boost the after-tax incomes of qualifying families and help them with basic needs like housing, food, and utilities and offset significant costs of raising children.

When designed well – including making them fully refundable and eliminating minimum earnings requirements – state Child Tax Credits counteract some of the deficiencies in the federal Child Tax Credit and lead to meaningful reductions in child poverty and deep poverty.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.