

TESTIMONY
RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To: House Finance Committee

From: Krisaki Liamas, Member, Women's Fund of RI Policy and Advocacy Committee

Date: Thursday, May 22nd, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill No. H-5197 (Diaz) – Removing Child Support Enforcement from the Child Care Assistance Program

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Krisaki Liamas, and I write in strong support of **House Bill No. H-5197**, which removes the harmful requirement that families cooperate with Child Support Enforcement in order to access child care assistance.

As an admissions counselor and a member of the Women's Fund of RI Policy and Advocacy Committee, I see how this policy places undue stress on low-wage working mothers—especially survivors of domestic violence—by tying child care eligibility to court involvement. No other early childhood program requires this, and most states have eliminated it, citing the need to reduce red tape and focus on access to care.

There is no evidence this requirement improves family stability or child support outcomes. In contrast, it causes real harm. Families like Alba's—a single mom juggling work and school—have been forced to miss both to navigate court proceedings, putting their jobs and futures at risk.

This bill has already passed the Senate. I urge you to do the same. Let's remove this outdated barrier and ensure child care is accessible, not punitive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Krisaki Liamas

Member, Women's Fund of RI Policy and Advocacy Committee