



May 22, 2025
Written Testimony for Public Hearing
House Finance Committee
Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 5992

Chairman Abney and committee members,

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island strongly supports House Bill 5992 to protect Rhode Island's poorest children and families by increasing the monthly cash assistance benefit, removing the waiting period for legal permanent residents and increasing the child support pass through.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island serves to enrich the quality of life for the approximately 20,000 Jews in Rhode Island and our state more broadly. Together, we translate Jewish tradition and values into action. All our work is guided by our core values including Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, and Hineni, standing with others so no one stands alone. These values inform all our work, including our support for this bill.

Rhode Island families are struggling with rising costs, and targeted support is urgently needed. Raising the monthly benefit to 50% of the federal poverty level would provide critical relief, just as enhanced assistance did in 2021 for over 5,000 children. This bill also increases the child support pass-through, allowing more support payments to reach children directly. Additionally, eliminating the five-year waiting period for legal permanent residents would align Rhode Island with 13 other states and ensure access is based on need, not immigration status. We urge the committee to advance this bill and invest in the well-being of Rhode Island's most vulnerable families.

Sincerely,
Emily Gaudreau
Director of Community Advocacy and Engagement