



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence RI 02903

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 7127 –  
SECTION 5 CHAPTER 44-30-104: CHILD TAX CREDIT**

Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of United Way Rhode Island, we strongly support Section 5, Chapter 44-30-104 of House Bill 7127, which creates a \$320 tax credit for eligible tax payers with children 18 and under. United Way's policy and advocacy efforts follow our strategic framework: Strong Families, Strong Nonprofits, Strong United Way. We prioritize policies that strengthen household stability, expand access to opportunity, and ensure public investments deliver measurable value.

United Way Rhode Island is the Lead Coordinating Agency for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program since 2005, serving as the primary organization that oversees, organizes, and supports VITA operations statewide. Rhode Island taxpayers who have their taxes prepared at a VITA site receive free, confidential services from IRS-certified volunteers. Of the 11,015 RI taxpayers who had their state taxes prepared at VITA sites last year, 2,233 qualified for the federal tax credit and received \$3,440,420 in returns from the federal tax credit alone; averaging \$1,540 per household. Those returns serve Rhode Islanders making just enough to get by, empowering families to catch up on utilities, car repairs, and, increasingly and alarmingly, health care that's been postponed.

A Rhode Island tax credit of \$320 per child will improve returns for Rhode Island families that United Way Rhode Island has identified as Asset-Limited Income-Constrained and Employed (ALICE) in addition to families below the Federal Poverty Line. ALICE and poverty-level households often miss out on tax saving opportunities, and the economic stabilization they provide during periods of rising costs for basic needs. When United Way Rhode Island advocates for tax credits, especially the Child Tax Credit, we commit to providing services in collaboration with federal, state, and community partners to deliver the benefits of tax credits to households in need.

United Way Rhode Island respectfully urges your support for Section 5, Chapter 44-30-104 Of House Bill 7127 and thanks you for sharing in our commitment to economic empowerment and Strong Families.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Afonso, Program Officer, Housing and Economic Policy  
United Way Rhode Island