

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chairman
House Committee on Finance
Room 212
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: In Support of H7127, Article 5–Section 6—Personal Income Tax

Dear Chairman Abney, Vice Chairs Slater and Marszalkowski, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of the forty four members of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), we write to urge the General Assembly to prioritize sustainable and equitable revenue strategies to ensure our state can meet the vital needs of its children, youth, and families. We strongly support Article 5, Section 6 and commend Governor McKee for including this important and popular proposal in his budget and believe it should go further to tax the top 1% of Rhode Island earners. We therefore support the legislation submitted by Representative Karen Alzate and Senator Melissa Murray and gladly join with our colleagues in the Revenue for Rhode Island Coalition.

The challenges facing children and families are increasingly complex, and our ability to meet them depends directly on the state's ability and willingness to prioritize funding for those most in need. RICCF member organizations serve Rhode Islanders in every community, including those with the most severe challenges to opportunity and well-being.

Our support for this measure is rooted in the following fiscal realities:

- **Substantial Revenue Generation:** A tax on the top 1% would raise \$203 million per year. This is \$68 million more annually than the proposed millionaires tax, which is projected to raise \$135 million.
- **Addressing the Budget Gap:** Rhode Island is currently facing a \$100 million budget gap for FY27.
- **Mitigating Federal Funding Losses:** Due to H.R.1 restricting Medicaid eligibility, Rhode Island is projected to lose nearly \$400 million in combined state and federal Medicaid funding in FY28. This shifts a massive burden onto the state and puts 53,000 Rhode Islanders at risk of losing healthcare, while 14,000 are at risk of losing SNAP benefits.
- **Tax Equity and Competitiveness:** The richest Rhode Islanders have received massive tax breaks at the federal level, and when everyone pays their fair share, everyone wins.
- **Regional Parity:** under H-7313, the state's wealthiest residents would still pay the same rate as they would in neighboring Massachusetts.

Now more than ever, we must invest boldly and responsibly in our shared future. We recognize that in a small state with limited resources, a fair and balanced approach to raising revenue is necessary to meet growing demand. As costs rise and needs deepen, it is vital that we increase revenue to avoid harmful cuts to the programs that support our children, youth, and families at the most risk.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanja Kubas Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tanja Kubas Meyer
Executive Director