



April 8, 2026
Written Testimony for Public Hearing
House Finance Committee
Re: Testimony in support of House Resolution 7401

Chair Abney and committee members,

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island strongly supports House resolution 7401, which appropriates \$75,000 for the Jewish Collaborative Services.

Jewish Collaborative Services (JCS) is a vital nonprofit that serves all Rhode Island residents while centering the Jewish community. Grounded in Jewish values, JCS provides comprehensive support to individuals and families across the state, with a focus on underserved populations, including older adults, low-income households, immigrants, and people with disabilities. By addressing basic needs and reducing social isolation, JCS strengthens the well-being of the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders.

JCS plays a uniquely important role in the state's social service landscape. It is the only organization in Rhode Island offering certain culturally competent resources, including the kosher food pantry, kosher Meals on Wheels, and a senior congregate kosher meal program. These services are essential lifelines—meeting critical nutritional needs while preserving dignity, cultural identity, and meaningful community connection. Beyond food, JCS provides housing support, health resources, and emotional and social services that improve quality of life for thousands of individuals and families each year.

At a time when many Rhode Islanders are facing rising costs and increasing hardship, investing in organizations like JCS is both compassionate and fiscally responsible. This funding ensures that a proven, high-impact provider can continue delivering essential programs that strengthen communities, reduce hardship, and support inclusive care across the state.

I urge the committee to support H 7401 and ensure continued funding for Jewish Collaborative Services and the essential work they do across our state.

Sincerely,
Emily Gaudreau
Director, Community Advocacy and Engagement