

April 8, 2026

Representative Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee of Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI, 02903

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for H7401, which provides critical funding for Jewish Collaborative Services (JCS). I have worked for JCS for nearly 10 years. In my time with the agency, I have seen firsthand the profound impact this organization has on individuals and families (both Jewish and of various backgrounds and religions) across RI. Every day, JCS supports people facing complex challenges whether related to aging, food insecurity, mental health, housing, financial hardship, and more.

In recent years, I have also witnessed a significant increase in need, alongside the rising costs that directly impact our ability to deliver these essential services. From food procurement to staffing to program operations, the financial strain is real, and it is growing. At the same time, many of the individuals we serve are experiencing reduced access to federal and state benefits, placing even greater reliance on JCS.

What makes JCS especially vital is its unique role in serving the Jewish community. As the state's only provider of kosher meals and pantry services, we meet needs that cannot be addressed elsewhere. For many of our clients, particularly older adults and those with specific cultural or dietary requirements, these services are not just helpful, they are essential.

This funding is not just an investment in one organization; it is an investment in the well-being, dignity, and stability of some of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents. Through our integrated programs : Adoption, Case Management, Counseling, Jewish Eldercare, Keshet congregational supports, LifeLink emergency response button, Shalom Affordable Housing, Tamarisk Senior Living, Kosher Meal sites and Meals on Wheels, or our Kosher Food Pantry and Warwick Food Pantry we are able to help the residents of Rhode Island navigate any hardship at every stage of life.

I urge you to support H7401 and ensure that JCS can continue to meet the growing needs of our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Hoard  
*Director of External Relations*  
Jewish Collaborative Services