

April 8, 2026

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

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for H7401 sponsored by Chairman David Bennett, which would allocate \$75,000 in FY27 to Jewish Collaborative Services (JCS).

JCS is a nonprofit that provides critical aid and assistance to thousands of Rhode Islanders each year. We support individuals and families facing serious physical, mental, and financial challenges with a full continuum of services. When neighbors experience hardship, JCS intervenes with care, connection, and understanding helping people to achieve stability again.

However, rising costs and the ongoing fallout from federal policy changes that restrict access to essential benefits keep placing significant strain on our programs. Our food security programs are especially becoming difficult to sustain in the face of increased costs but also increased demand.

JCS plays a unique and irreplaceable role in our state. It is the only housing and social services agency in Rhode Island that directly serves the Jewish community. For example, JCS operates the state's only kosher food pantry, kosher meal site program, and kosher meal delivery for homebound individuals. For those who rely on these services, there are no alternative providers that can meet their dietary, cultural, and religious needs. Any reduction in resources would leave these Rhode Islanders without access to essential support.

Passing H7401 is an opportunity for the state to reaffirm its commitment not only to the Jewish community, but to all Rhode Islanders facing hardship. Approving our funding will help ensure that JCS can continue to serve those with nowhere else to turn. This kind of investment turns despair into hope.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the well-being of all Rhode Islanders. Please give H7401 your full support.

Warmly,



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