

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 the immediate past chairperson of Jewish Collaborative Services (JCS). I am writing in support of Bill H7401 which will provide crucial funds to JCS.

Some of the reasons I am so committed to JCS are that the organization provides critical aid and assistance to thousands of RI community members each year. The resources provided help those facing serious physical, mental and financial challenges. JCS is facing difficult times running programs, especially related to food security, given rising costs and the fall out of federal policy restricting access to benefits.

JCS is the state's only housing and social services agency that directly serves the Jewish community. As an example, they run the state's only kosher food pantry, kosher meal sit program and kosher meal delivery services to homebound seniors. A cut to resources would deny many people the help they need anywhere else due to their unique needs.

Passing H7401 demonstrates the state's commitment to the Jewish community and all Rhode Islanders in need with nowhere else to turn to for help.

I have been involved with JCS for more than 10 years and have seen first hand all the important work the agency has done for our community. I fully support this bill and thank you for your time and commitment.

Sincerely,
Mindy Stone