

April 7, 2026 | 20 Nisan 5786

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



Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing in support of Bill: H7401 (Bennett) which resolves to allocate \$75,000 to Jewish Collaborative Services (JCS) in FY27.

JCS provides critical aid and assistance to thousands of Rhode Islanders every year. Their resources help people facing serious physical, mental, and financial challenges. Rising costs and the fall out of federal policy restricting access to benefits are making it difficult to run programs, especially related to food security.

JCS is the state's only housing and social services agency that directly serves the Jewish community. For example, they run the state's only kosher food pantry, meal site program, and meal delivery services to homebound seniors. If there is a cut to resources, many people would not be able to get 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.

This bill is personally important to me as an educator who teaches the largest number of Jewish students in the state. It represents the values we teach each week in our Religious School.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Mersky Woda

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Director of Youth & Family Engagement
Temple Beth-El, Providence, RI