



May 5, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chairman  
House Finance Committee  
Room 35, Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of **Boys Town New England** to express our strong support for **H8404**, which would create a Medicaid Infrastructure Fund to assist the 25 impacted organizations in transitioning to dual DCYF and Medicaid billing.

Headquartered in Portsmouth, RI with additional offices in Warwick, RI and Foxborough, MA Boys Town New England has brought life-changing care to tens of thousands of children and families in Rhode Island and surrounding states, since opening in 1991. Boys Town provides a continuum of care that is uniquely designed to stabilize families, prevent out-of-home placement, and support youth with high levels of need. We offer Foster Family Services®, In-Home Family Services® and Community Support Services®. For children who have completed Boys Town New England out-of-home programs, Reunification Services are available to help them make a smooth transition back to their families and maintain and improve their treatment gains. These services touch the lives of nearly 1,200 children and families in New England each year are not easily replicated by larger systems.

As the Executive Director of Boys Town New England, I want to emphasize that our organization has worked closely with the state for the past two years to identify the needs, barriers, and operational challenges associated with this transition. To date, Boys Town New England has not received any financial support to prepare for this significant shift in billing and compliance requirements.

Our organization has **limited experience with Medicaid billing**, and the transition to a dual Medicaid/DCYF model introduces a level of administrative complexity and financial risk that far exceeds our current infrastructure. This is not a simple administrative adjustment. It requires substantial investment in:

- Compliance and quality-assurance systems
- Staff training and credentialing
- Billing and documentation infrastructure
- Technology upgrades
- Adjustments to service delivery models to meet Medicaid standards

As an organization operating on tight margins, these upfront costs are prohibitive. Without targeted support, Boys Town New England anticipates that we may need to reduce critical programming, thereby putting essential community-based services at risk at a time when Rhode Island remains under a federal Consent Decree to strengthen its children's behavioral health system. Major system transformations such as the launch of CCBHCs, are usually accompanied by significant financial support. Without state support, sustaining these services will be extremely difficult.

A Medicaid Infrastructure Fund would provide the time-limited, targeted resources necessary for organizations like ours to build the capacity required to successfully participate in dual billing. This is not simply an investment in individual providers, but an investment in the strength, diversity, and long-term stability of Rhode Island's entire children's behavioral health system.

The services Boys Town NE provide touch the lives of nearly 1,200 children and families each year. For more than **35 years**, we have served high-risk youth and families across Rhode Island, offering trauma-informed, evidence-based care that larger systems cannot replicate with the same flexibility, community presence, or relational continuity.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the creation and full funding of the Medicaid Infrastructure Fund outlined in **H8404**.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to community-based services for Rhode Island's children, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcy Shyllon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcy Shyllon  
Executive Director  
Boys Town New England