



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

May 7, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street,
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I support the creation of a State Child Tax Credit as proposed in House Bill 8338, *An Act Relating to Taxation – Personal Income Tax* and the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

A Child Tax Credit will help families with the high cost of raising children. This Credit will help reduce poverty across the state and will reach the most vulnerable children, including families with low or no income and families with young children. There is robust evidence that child tax credits help families with the high cost of raising children. Parents use cash refunds from federal and state Child Tax Credits for essential needs like food, housing, utilities, childcare, and education expenses.

According to the 2025 RI Kids Count Factbook, nearly 65 percent of children living in poverty in Rhode Island reside in just four cities: Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket. As Mayor, it has been a priority to ensure that Providence remains a city for families and that we continue to invest in initiatives to meet families' essential needs. From achieving universal Pre-K access to investing in housing, my Administration has taken a comprehensive, family-centered approach to supporting all residents. These supports are designed to support families in staying housed, access education opportunities for their children, and thrive in Providence. The State Child Tax Credit will complement our local efforts by providing direct support to families.

Rhode Island has been a leader in supporting families and with this State Child Tax Credit. Our state will join 16 others including Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont in offering our hard-working families some relief. This critical investment will help families meet their basic needs and will strengthen family financial stability.

I thank the sponsor of House Bill 8338 and Governor McKee for including this in his proposed FY2027 budget. I respectfully urge the Committee's support for the creation of a State Child Tax Credit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett P. Smiley".

Brett P. Smiley
Mayor