



May 4, 2026

The Honorable Representative Marvin Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence RI 02903

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 8338
AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION – PERSONAL INCOME TAX**

Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of United Way Rhode Island, we strongly support H 8338, which establishes a child tax credit in the amount of \$650 for eligible taxpayers adjusted for inflation annually commencing January 1, 2027. United Way's policy and advocacy efforts follow our strategic framework: **Strong Families, Strong Nonprofits, Strong United Way**. We prioritize policies that strengthen household stability, expand access to opportunity, and ensure public investments deliver measurable value.

United Way of Rhode Island partners with the IRS to deliver VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) programs at 23 sites across Rhode Island, and we're excited to release the preliminary results from the 2025 tax season (filed before April 15, 2026). VITA provides free, basic tax return preparation to low-to-moderate income (less than \$69k), disabled, elderly, or limited English-speaking individuals. Volunteers are trained to prepare tax returns by the IRS and every return is subjected to a quality review.

In Rhode Island, volunteers filed 9,470 federal returns that secured \$15,064,727 in federal refunds. Volunteers filed 10,627 RI returns, securing \$6,285,063 in state refunds. In just these 10,627 households, 1,193 claimed the federal CTC (Child Tax Credit), receiving an average credit of \$1,729. By the IRS's calculations, about 20% of Rhode Islanders eligible for VITA are not currently using the service or getting the credit, United Way of Rhode Island is committed to delivering VITA to communities that would otherwise spend a great deal on a preparer or simply not file at all.

The federal CTC delivers cash directly to Rhode Island households with children. A Rhode Island CTC at any benefit level would raise tax refunds and improve outcomes for families, but the \$650 per child proposed in H 8338 would impact 120,659 households with an average benefit of \$867.12. The benefit to Rhode Island families, especially those in VITA households, would support economic security during a period of high housing, food, and childcare costs.

United Way of Rhode Island respectfully urges your support for H 7594 and thanks you for sharing our commitment to the economic security of **Strong Families**.

Very best,



Peggy Afonso
Housing and Economic Development Policy, United Way Rhode Island