



5/11/2026

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

Re: House Bill No. 7051- Establishing Segregated Savings Accounts for Youth in Foster Care

Chair Marvin L. Abney and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of House Bill No. 7051, An Act Related to State Affairs and Government—Department of Children, Youth and Families: Establishing Segregated Savings Accounts for Youth in Foster Care. This legislation represents a meaningful and necessary step toward ensuring that young people who age out of foster care are not left without the financial resources needed to meet basic needs such as housing, education, and transportation—needs that are essential to a stable transition into adulthood.

Nationwide, an estimated 20% of young people experience homelessness immediately upon aging out of foster care, and nearly one in four will experience homelessness within four years. These outcomes are not the result of individual failure, but of systemic gaps that leave youth without the financial foundation most young adults rely on. By creating protected, segregated savings accounts, this bill helps disrupt the foster care-to-homelessness pipeline while ensuring that youth are not penalized or disqualified from receiving other critical supports simply for having modest savings.

My name is Kayla David, and I serve as Chief of the Home Division at Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI), a behavioral health and social service organization with the mission to advance hope and opportunity in our communities. For decades, FSRI has served Rhode Islanders through programs that support healthy child development, deliver essential behavioral health and social services, and provide crisis intervention for children and families.

FSRI is a provider of foster care and community-based services under contract with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). We also support foster youth through residential interventions, independent living services, and enhanced case management for youth in voluntary extension of care. Through this work, we see firsthand the challenges young people face as they transition out of the child welfare system—and the profound difference that even modest financial stability can make.

FSRI strongly supports House Bill No. 7051. Ensuring foster youth have access to segregated savings accounts, financial literacy, and asset protection is an investment in their long-term success. This bill gives Rhode Island the opportunity to change outcomes for foster youth transitioning to adulthood—reducing lifelong negative health and economic consequences while setting young people up for stability, dignity, and success.

The choices we make today about how we support our children and youth will shape the future health and well-being of our state. When we invest in young people—and in systems that promote equity and opportunity—we build a stronger, more resilient Rhode Island for everyone.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment in support of this crucial legislation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further discussion.

Thank you,
Kayla David, LMFT

Kayla David, LMFT, Chief of Home, FSRI