



May 14th, 2026
Written Testimony for Public Hearing
House Finance Committee
Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 7690

Chairman Abney and members of the committee,

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island strongly supports H 7690, which would increase the child support pass-through for families participating in the Rhode Island Works program.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for the approximately 20,000 Jews in our state, as well as the broader Rhode Island community. Together, we bring Jewish tradition and values to life through meaningful action. Our work is guided by core principles, including *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world, and *Hineni*, standing with others so no one stands alone. These values inform all our work, including our support for this bill.

Jewish tradition teaches that every person deserves dignity and that we have a communal obligation to care for one and other. This legislation recognizes that child support payments are intended to benefit children directly and helps ensure that more of those resources reach the families who need them most.

For many low-income families, even a modest increase in available income can make a meaningful difference in meeting basic needs such as food, housing, transportation, childcare, and school expenses. Increasing the pass-through from \$50 to \$100 for one child and from \$100 to \$200 for families with multiple children would provide critical support to Rhode Island families working hard to achieve greater economic stability.

I strongly urge the committee to pass and support this legislation.

Sincerely,
Emily Gaudreau
Director, Community Advocacy and Engagement