

May 14, 2026

SEIU Rhode Island State Council in support of H-7796– JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY WAYS TO MAXIMIZE REVENUE FOR CHILD WELFARE AND CHILDREN’S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of SEIU Rhode Island State Council. On behalf of the thousands of state employees represented by SEIU, I write in strong support of H-7796.

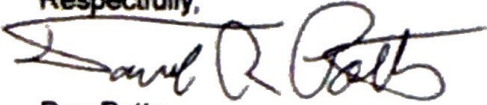
SEIU represents thousands of members in the child care fields within the Department of Children, Youth, and Families(DCYF) and home based child care providers. They provide incredible support to Rhode Island’s most vulnerable children and families. All too often this work is performed in the shadows away from the public view. It is incumbent on those who hold power to lift up this work and give the proper support to children, families, and those who work tirelessly to support them.

We live in unprecedented times where severe cuts at the federal level under the Trump administration are threatening vital services thousands of Rhode Islanders depend on. This study commission is essential to shed light on how funding streams play a dramatic role in the outcomes for children and families alike. Furthermore we at SEIU fully believe it is essential to have front line childcare providers at DCYF play a role on this commission.

We urge this committee to support H-7796 and move this legislation forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Potts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Dan Potts

Executive Director

SEIU Rhode Island State Council

dpotts.seiu.rhodeisland@gmail.com

617.680.9248