



June 2, 2026

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

*Re: HB 8603 (An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles – Operators’ and Chauffeurs’ Licenses)*

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance;

On behalf of the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), I write to express our sincere appreciation to Representative Casimiro and the sponsors of HB 8603 for her commitment to expanding access to driver education opportunities for foster youth in Rhode Island. We also appreciate the willingness of both the House and Senate sponsors to work collaboratively with CCRI and other stakeholders to amend the legislation in an effort to address operational and implementation concerns raised by the college.

CCRI has been actively engaged with all parties throughout this process and has submitted recommended amendment language. The language ensures that foster youth are treated in the same manner as all other students enrolled in CCRI’s driver education program, reducing the potential for stigma and preserving student privacy and dignity.

CCRI supports the amended language currently included on lines 15–18 of Page 2 and lines 14–17 of Page 4, which states:

*“...except, upon a request and payment of the tuition or enrollment fee from the department of children, youth and families, for any eligible person receiving foster caregiving in foster and adoptive homes as defined in § 42-72.1-2...”*

Accordingly, CCRI respectfully requests the removal of the following language found on lines 22–25 of Page 2 and lines 21–24 of Page 4 of the legislation:

*“Provided further, any person receiving foster caregiving in foster and adoptive homes as defined in § 42-72.1-2, shall be eligible for a fee waiver for driver's education classes at the community college of Rhode Island.”*

Removing this language and retaining the alternative language ensures the legislation remains operationally consistent with the current DCYF-supported model.

CCRI welcomes the opportunity to continue working collaboratively with the sponsors and members of the General Assembly to advance this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amy Kempe'.

Amy Kempe  
Chief of Staff

**Knight Campus**

400 East Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886-1807 P: 401.825.2181 F: 401.825.2365