

Roberta DiMezza

From: Nicole Fiero <nfiero@adoptionri.org>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 2:46 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support of H5672

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Elected Officials,

I write in support of H5672 in my role as Chief Program Officer at Adoption Rhode Island, a nonprofit service provider contracted by DCYF to provide support, therapy, and programming to vulnerable young people and families impacted by foster care, adoption, and trauma. My colleagues engage in the critical work of finding permanent homes, caretakers, and supporters for young people languishing in foster care. **This work is critical.**

Sibling connections are vital to child development. Sibling connections allow children to remain in contact with important family members during times of confusion, stress, upheaval, and transition. In the wake of abuse, neglect, and trauma, children can access healing with elements of normalcy such as sibling visits and communication.

I am proud to stand alongside many esteemed colleagues in support of this bill. Notably, Marcie Baker-Hinds, who was recognized by the Dave Thomas Foundation for her life-changing work in recruiting caretakers for children languishing in the care of the state, is an ardent advocate for this legislation. Darlene Allen, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Adoption Rhode Island, also expressed emphatic support for this bill.

Please allow siblings to maintain connection by supporting this bill.

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