



April 1, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven Sr., Chair

House Judiciary Committee

Rhode island Statehouse

Providence, 02903

**RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 6064 --AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER  
VEHICLES -- STATE IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR MINORS WITHOUT RESIDENCE ACT**

On behalf of United Way of Rhode Island, we proudly support House Bill No. 6064, which removes critical barriers for youth experiencing housing instability by ensuring access to a state identification card. Through the ADVOCATE UNITED initiative of our LIVE UNITED 2025 Strategic Plan, we are committed to dismantling systemic obstacles that disproportionately impact marginalized populations—especially youth navigating foster care or homelessness. Access to identification is not just a matter of convenience; it is a fundamental step toward civic engagement, education, employment, and long-term stability.

Youth who lack a fixed address or are in the care of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families often struggle to obtain basic identification. This prevents them from securing employment, accessing health care, enrolling in school, or registering to vote. According to the National Network for Youth, approximately 50% of homeless youth report being unable to access needed services due to lack of identification (NN4Y, 2022). By waiving the signature requirement from a parent, guardian, or foster parent—and covering the cost—House Bill No. 6064 removes barriers that disproportionately impact vulnerable youth in Rhode Island.

This bill is not just about access; it's about dignity and equity. Ensuring young people have the tools they need to participate fully in civic life reflects the values of a just society.

Supporting House Bill No. 6064 will help ensure that all Rhode Islanders—especially our most vulnerable youth—have a fair and equal opportunity to succeed. This legislation is vital to creating a more inclusive and just Rhode Island where everyone can thrive. We strongly encourage your support in advancing policies that uphold racial and social justice for all.

Uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,  
Elijah McLean  
Manager, Government Relations & Policy  
United Way Rhode Island

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