



4/1/2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for State Identification Cards for Minors without Residence Act – H6064

Chair Craven and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H6064, State Identification for Minors without Residence Act. Passage of this bill is key to ensuring that minors ages 14-17 in the care and custody of DCYF or who do not have permanent residence receive state identification cards and copies of their birth certificate at no cost and without the need for a parent, guardian, or foster parent signature.

My name is Margaret Holland McDuff, and I am CEO of FSRI. FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization with the mission “to advance equity, hope, and opportunity in our communities.” FSRI has been serving Rhode Islanders for decades, including programming to support healthy child development, provide essential behavioral health services, and coordinate crisis intervention programs that help children and families thrive.

FSRI is a provider of residential, foster care, and community-based services under contract with the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). This includes three trauma-informed residential programs for youth and young adults, a foster care program currently providing care to over 20 children and youth, and a variety of community-based supports – including Kinship Cares, a program supporting kinship families.

FSRI supports bill H6064, which ensure that vulnerable youth, who do not have permanent residence or are in the care and custody of DCYF, have access to essential forms of identification, which can be crucial for accessing services, education, and opportunities.

The services and supports we invest in our children, youth and young adults will determine the future health and well-being of our state. If we invest in our youth, and the individuals and systems that support them, then we will have a bright future ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of this crucial legislation, please feel free to contact me with any questions or follow-up.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Margaret Holland McDuff'.

Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO