



State of Rhode Island  
Office of the General Treasurer

**James A. Diosa**  
General Treasurer

21 April 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

**RE:** *2025-H 5645, An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure Generally – Levy and Sale on Execution*

Chair Craven:

I write in strong support of 2025-H 5645, introduced at my request by Representative Dawson. This bill would protect a student's college savings by exempting tuition savings plans from judicial attachment irrespective of the state in which the account was opened.

Rhode Island law currently protects tuition savings programs from judicial attachment *if and only if* the account was opened in Rhode Island through the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority ("RISLA"). *See* R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-57-3(10), (16). **This legislation merely extends that same protection to a tuition savings plan authorized under 26 U.S.C. § 529 opened in any other state.**<sup>1</sup> Importantly, this legislation will *not* impact RISLA operations or otherwise deter enrolment in the state's own college savings program.

While its an old adage that those born in Rhode Island stay in Rhode Island, the reality is that many families – from near and far – see all we have to offer and decide to move here. But if a family from close by Connecticut or from a farther state like Florida opens a tuition savings plan in their home state, that account would *not* be protected from civil legal judgment. A child's financial ability to attend college should never hinge on whether those savings were seized in satisfaction of a judgment against a parent. At least three other states – Florida, Texas, and Tennessee – have adopted similar protections.

Respectfully,

James A. Diosa  
General Treasurer

---

<sup>1</sup> Tuition savings accounts would *only* be protected against judgment in Rhode Island courts. Under the proposed language, such accounts would remain subject to attachment in other jurisdictions, consistent with federal Constitutional mandates.