



Family Court
Garrahy Judicial Complex

One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

HAND DELIVERED

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2026 - H 7036

Dear Chair McEntee and
Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write to comment on 2026 H 7036 entitled "Cooperation of public and private agencies". The Court supports the addition of school districts to the existing legislation which requires other agencies of government to render assistance and cooperation to the court in its effort to protect and further the best interests of children who come before it.

Information regarding the child's attendance, academic performance, social/antisocial interactions with teachers and other students, individualized education plans, parental involvement, school based evaluations and recommendations can be very helpful to the Court in understanding the needs of the child. To the extent that school districts can share this information, consistent with federal law (FERPA), it would be very helpful to the Court.

The Court respectfully thanks the committee for this opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Very truly yours,

Michael B. Forte
Chief Judge

MBF:nmp