



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
Department of Children, Youth and Families  
Director's Office  
101 Friendship St.  
Providence, RI 02903

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chairwoman  
House Committee on Judiciary  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: 2025 H-7438 – Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Children, Youth and Families**

Dear Chairwoman McEntee:

Please accept this letter from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF or “the department”) regarding H 7438.

This bill would require additional state funds to support the expansion of certain programs currently offered by DCYF and sustained through federal funding. For instance, families receive a subsidy when they adopt a child, and that subsidy comes from federal funds. Expanding to allow foster children to participate is not allowed under federal guidelines.

There are several other examples of programs that are partially or fully funded through federal funds for which foster children may not be eligible. If this bill passes, the department would require a significant increase in its budget to pay to expand certain programming beyond what federal reimbursements will allow.

DCYF appreciates the opportunity to express its concerns regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

Ashley Deckert, MSW, MA  
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary  
The Honorable Julie A. Casimiro  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy